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## ***Daily Report***

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# **Near East & South Asia**

FBIS-NES-91-083  
Tuesday  
30 April 1991

# Daily Report

## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-083

### CONTENTS

30 April 1991

**NOTICE TO READERS:** On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An \* indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

#### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

##### Palestinian Affairs

|                                                                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| PFLP-GC Delegates Meet Iranian President [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio] ..... | 1 |
| 'White Book' To Clarify PLO Position on Gulf [Amman AL-DUSTUR 29 Apr] .....     | 1 |
| 'Arafat Aide Stresses International Peace Meet [MENA] .....                     | 1 |
| 'Arafat Receives Yemen's President Salih [Algiers VOP] .....                    | 1 |

#### ARAB AFRICA

##### Algeria

|                                                                      |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Nuclear Program Open to International Inspection [Paris Radio] ..... | 2 |
| Ministry Satisfied With UN Resolution 690 [APS] .....                | 2 |
| *Commission Forms New Political Party [EL MOUDJAHID 7 Apr] .....     | 2 |
| New Moderate Islamic Party Legalized [Paris International] .....     | 3 |
| Ben Bella To 'Stand' in Presidential Election [Algiers Radio] .....  | 3 |
| Commentator Forecasts Election Results [Algiers Radio] .....         | 3 |

##### Egypt

|                                                                  |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 'Sources' Say Troops Returning From Gulf [AFP] .....             | 4 |
| Foreign Ministry Denounces Israeli Settlements [MENA] .....      | 4 |
| 'Abd-al-Majid on Regional Peace Conference [MENA] .....          | 4 |
| Ministry Official on 'Obstacles' to Conference [MENA] .....      | 5 |
| Summit in Kuwait With GCC, Syria Denied [MENA] .....             | 5 |
| Newspapers Criticize U.S., Israeli Policies .....                | 5 |
| Israeli 'Intransigence' Seen [MENA] .....                        | 5 |
| U.S. Should 'Pressure' Israel [MENA] .....                       | 6 |
| U.S. Asks Much, Gives Only 'Promises' [AL-SHA'B 22 Apr] .....    | 6 |
| AL-AKHBAR Warns of Iraqi Attempts To Rearm [MENA] .....          | 7 |
| Mubarak Receives West European Union Delegation [Cairo TV] ..... | 7 |
| Swiss Official Concludes Visit, Departs 30 Apr [MENA] .....      | 7 |

##### Libya

|                                                                       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Al-Qadhafi Addresses Lawyers Union [Tripoli TV] .....                 | 7  |
| Radio on Israeli Settlements in West Bank, Gaza [Tripoli Radio] ..... | 11 |

##### Sudan

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Release of Political Prisoners Announced [MENA] .....           | 11 |
| Ex-Premier Released [SUNA] .....                                | 11 |
| Somalia's Prime Minister Arrives 28 Apr [SUNA] .....            | 12 |
| Meets With Al-Bashir [Omdurman Radio] .....                     | 12 |
| Al-Bashir Receives King Husayn's Message [Omdurman Radio] ..... | 12 |

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

### Kuwait

|                                                                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Decision on Ties With Pro-Iraq States Upheld [Riyadh TV] .....                                    | 13 |
| Amir Asks Leading Officials To 'Set an Example'<br>[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 22 Apr] ..... | 13 |
| Defense Minister Discusses Restructuring Army [KUNA] .....                                        | 13 |
| Minister Receives Egyptian, Japanese Delegations [KUNA] .....                                     | 14 |

### Saudi Arabia

|                                                               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Fahd's Position on Gulf, Peace Talks Viewed [SPA] .....       | 14 |
| Palestinian Faction Leader Praises Saudis [Riyadh TV] .....   | 15 |
| CSFR Delegation Negotiates Unit Withdrawal [Prague CTK] ..... | 15 |

## IRAQ

|                                                                                    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Parliament Speaker Says RCC To Be 'Annulled' [AFP] .....                           | 16 |
| RCC Grants Kurds 'Full Amnesty' From Riot Acts [INA] .....                         | 16 |
| Minister on French, UK Attitude Toward Kurds [Baghdad Radio] .....                 | 16 |
| Barzani Comments on Kurds' Fight Against Saddam [Hamburg DPA] .....                | 16 |
| Memo to UN Protests More U.S.-Saudi Air Activity [INA] .....                       | 17 |
| Memo to on Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' [INA] .....                             | 17 |
| Further on 'Infringements' [INA] .....                                             | 18 |
| Ramadan Urges Arabs To Foil 'Conspiracies' [Baghdad Radio] .....                   | 18 |
| 'Aziz Returns From Tour of Arab States 29 Apr [INA] .....                          | 18 |
| Cabinet Raises Cereal Prices, Awards Saddam [Baghdad Radio] .....                  | 18 |
| Refugee Reports Army Missile Strikes on Karbala' [Tehran Radio] .....              | 18 |
| City Reportedly Sealed by Iraqi Troops [Tehran Radio] .....                        | 19 |
| Rebel Radio on Attack Against Government Forces [Voice of Rebellious Iraq] .....   | 19 |
| Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Visit to Syria Criticized [INA] .....                         | 19 |
| Rebels: National Security Situation Deteriorating [Voice of Rebellious Iraq] ..... | 19 |

## ISRAEL

|                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Shamir: Syria 'Main Difficulty' in Peace Talks [Jerusalem Radio] .....  | 20 |
| Shamir Rejects UN Participation [Jerusalem Radio] .....                 | 20 |
| 'Clash' With Levi [DAVAR 30 Apr] .....                                  | 20 |
| Levi: U.S. Must Demand Arabs End State of War [Jerusalem Radio] .....   | 21 |
| Arens Urges Mubarak-Shamir Meeting [Jerusalem Radio] .....              | 21 |
| Gush Emunim Trying To Set Up Two Settlements [DAVAR 30 Apr] .....       | 21 |
| Baker Said Pushing UN Role To Please 'Arafat [MA'ARIV 30 Apr] .....     | 21 |
| Levi Said To Face Tough Job Convincing Cabinet [HA'ARETZ 28 Apr] .....  | 22 |
| Commentary: Syria Scuttling Peace Efforts [MA'ARIV 26 Apr] .....        | 22 |
| Likud MK Said on 'Secret Mission' for Shamir [MA'ARIV 30 Apr] .....     | 23 |
| No-Confidence Motion Defeated 44 to 33 [Jerusalem TV] .....             | 23 |
| Milo Defends Government [THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Apr] .....               | 23 |
| Left-Wing Parties Form Bloc for Next Elections [Jerusalem Radio] .....  | 24 |
| Italian Communist Officials Visit [THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Apr] .....     | 24 |
| Occchetto, Peres, Skeptical on Conference [Rome ANSA] .....             | 24 |
| Danish Minister Arrives, Criticizes Settlements [Jerusalem Radio] ..... | 25 |
| Comments on Peace Process, Settlements [Jerusalem Radio] .....          | 25 |
| On 'Economic Reprisals,' Europe's Role [Jerusalem Radio] .....          | 26 |
| Levi Calls for Pressure on Arabs [Jerusalem Radio] .....                | 26 |
| Arens: Arabs Lack Incentive [Tel Aviv Radio] .....                      | 26 |
| PRC Foreign Ministry Official Visits [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Apr] .....    | 27 |
| Gives Levi Letter on Rapprochement [Jerusalem TV] .....                 | 27 |
| Discusses Role in Mideast Arms Control [DAVAR 28 Apr] .....             | 27 |
| Shamir Closely Following Ethiopian Developments [Jerusalem Radio] ..... | 27 |
| Bethlehem Curfew Imposed After Tourist Stabbed [Tel Aviv Radio] .....   | 28 |

|                                                  |                                   |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| Weekend Deaths, House Demolitions Reported       | [THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Apr, etc.] | 28 |
| Arabs Claim Areas To Be Annexed to Jerusalem     | [HADASHOT 28 Apr]                 | 29 |
| New Jewish Neighborhood Planned in Old Jerusalem | [AL HAMISHMAR 28 Apr]             | 29 |
| State Comptroller Accuses Paris Envoy of Fraud   | [Paris Radio]                     | 29 |
| Leaves for PRC Conference                        | [Jerusalem Radio]                 | 29 |

## JORDAN

|                                            |                       |    |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| London Paper 'Lacks Compassion' for Iraqis | [JORDAN TIMES 29 Apr] | 30 |
| Official Source Denies Report              | [Amman TV]            | 30 |
| King Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister      | [Amman Radio]         | 31 |
| Yemeni Official Talks With Al-Masri        | [Amman Radio]         | 31 |
| Editorial Discusses U.S. Peace Efforts     | [AL-DUSTUR 29 Apr]    | 31 |

## LEBANON

|                                                  |                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| PFLP-GC Refuses To Transfer Arms                 | [AFP]                    | 32 |
| To Remove Arms From Army Area                    | [Beirut Radio]           | 32 |
| Iran Reportedly To Pull Out Revolutionary Guards | [RFL]                    | 32 |
| Syrian 'Consent' for Hizballah To Retain Weapons | [Voice of the Oppressed] | 32 |
| Army Deployment on Mountain To Begin 1 May       | [VOL]                    | 32 |
| Dib: Agreement Reached on Assimilating Militias  | [VOL]                    | 33 |
| Dallul: All 'Have Consented' to Army Deployment  | [Beirut Radio]           | 33 |
| Junblatt News Conference on National Issues      | [VOM]                    | 33 |
| Correction to ADP Begins Weapons Handover        |                          | 34 |

## SYRIA

|                                                 |                  |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|
| More on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Delegation Visit    |                  | 35 |
| Report on News Conference                       | [Damascus Radio] | 35 |
| Communique Issued                               | [Damascus Radio] | 36 |
| Oil, Gas Agreement Signed                       | [Damascus Radio] | 38 |
| Commentary Notes Iran's Role in Gulf Security   | [Damascus Radio] | 39 |
| Commentary Stresses 'Close' Syrian-Iranian Ties | [Damascus Radio] | 39 |
| Iranian Support for Arab Causes Praised         | [Damascus Radio] | 40 |
| Party Officials Conclude Visits to PRC, Moscow  | [Damascus Radio] | 40 |
| Qaddafi Receives PRC Delegation 25 Apr          | [Damascus Radio] | 41 |

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

|                                                  |                           |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| Government 'Admitted' Army Links With Mujahidin  | [Islamabad International] | 42 |
| Mujahidin Execute Suspected Kabul Supporter      | [Islamabad Radio]         | 42 |
| 'Fierce' Battles Reported in Several Provinces   | [Islamabad Radio]         | 42 |
| Rebels Reportedly Retreat After Lowgar Losses    | [AFP]                     | 42 |
| Garrison Chief Briefs Najibullah on Operations   | [Kabul Radio]             | 43 |
| Senate Statement on 'Interim Government'         | [Kabul Radio]             | 43 |
| Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani 'Aggression' | [Kabul Radio]             | 44 |
| Protests Missiles to 'Extremists'                | [Kabul Radio]             | 44 |
| Najibullah Speaks on Current Issues              | [Kabul Radio]             | 44 |

### Bangladesh

|                                                   |               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|----|
| Deputy Speaker Stresses Sovereignty of Parliament | [Dhaka Radio] | 46 |
| Parliament Briefed on Indian Territory Transfer   | [Dhaka Radio] | 47 |
| Army Chief Leads Military Delegation to PRC       | [Dhaka Radio] | 47 |
| Ershad Says Political Motives Behind Arms Case    | [Dhaka Radio] | 47 |

## India

|                                                  |                   |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| Sikh Militants Kill Congress-I Activist          | [AFP]             | 47 |
| Kill Punjab Governor's Aide                      | [AFP]             | 48 |
| Shekhar on Punjab, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir      | [Delhi Radio]     | 48 |
| Gandhi Urges Improving Relations With Pakistan   | [Delhi Radio]     | 48 |
| Anti-Pakistan Demonstrations Reported in Kashmir | [Delhi Radio]     | 48 |
| Indonesian Delegation Visits on Defense Issues   |                   | 48 |
| Talks Between Officials                          | [Delhi TV]        | 48 |
| Defense Agreement Reached                        | [AFP]             | 49 |
| Reportage on Venkataraman Visit to Philippines   | [cross-reference] | 49 |

## Iran

|                                                |                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----|
| Velayati Visit Prepares for Hajj Aspirations   | [Tehran International] | 49 |
| Yazdi Calls For War Crimes Trial for Saddam    | [IRNA]                 | 49 |
| Commentary on Calls for Iraqi War Crimes Trial | [Tehran Radio]         | 50 |
| Paper Supports Majles Decision on Najafi       | [IRNA]                 | 50 |
| Political Roundtable Views Mideast Issues      | [Tehran TV]            | 51 |
| *Shipping Line to Bahrain Operational          | [London KEYHAN 4 Apr]  | 54 |
| Reportage on President's Visit to Turkey       | [cross-reference]      | 54 |

## Pakistan

|                                                |                     |    |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----|
| Japanese Hostages Freed by Kidnappers in Sindh | [AFP]               | 54 |
| Court Suspends Conviction of Former Minister   | [Islamabad Radio]   | 55 |
| Kashmiri Council Seeks UN Help for Struggle    | [Islamabad Radio]   | 55 |
| Article Examines Anti-Mujahidin Elements       | [THE MUSLIM 27 Apr] | 55 |

## Palestinian Affairs

### PFLP-GC Delegates Meet Iranian President

JN2904182491 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] A delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday. Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati attended the meeting. The front's delegation included Talal Naji, Fadl Shururu, and 'Umar al-Shihabi and was headed by PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril.

The talks centered on the latest political developments in the region, the circumstances through which the Palestine question is passing, the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the glorious Palestinian intifadah.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted to the PFLP-GC's delegation that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Palestinian people's just struggle and their heroic intifadah. He also stressed that the Palestine question has been the central cause of the Islamic revolution in Iran since the onset of the Islamic revolution. The talks also touched on the Palestinian National Salvation Front's initiative regarding Palestinian dialogue, an initiative that enjoys large-scale support from our people in Palestine and in the diaspora and which will restore the Palestinian national struggle's cohesion, unity, and ability to continue the struggle.

### 'White Book' To Clarify PLO Position on Gulf

JN2904065291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Apr 91 pp 1, 13

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman and member of the PLO Central Council, said the council has entrusted the PLO Executive Committee with issuing a "White Book" containing the facts and positions of the PLO regarding the Gulf crisis, with the objective of clarifying these facts to public opinion regarding its position, which continues to be subjected to distortion.

He told AL-DUSTUR upon returning from Tunis the day before yesterday that a committee has been formed for this purpose. It is chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and includes Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abdallah Hurani, Jamal al-Surani, and a number of Palestinian ambassadors in countries that have relations with the PLO.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim adds: The committee has been provided with the necessary documents to complete its mission. He clarified that the book will contain information on the efforts and mediation Mr. 'Arafat has undertaken with the two sides, Iraq and Kuwait, and on the Arab and international level. It will also contain facts regarding the circumstances of the Cairo summit and the two initiatives presented by state of Palestine's president to solve the Gulf crisis, in addition to the positions by all concerned sides.

He said the committee will hold its meetings in Tunis, but he did not set a date for the first session. Contacts are currently under way to set this date.

### 'Arafat Aide Stresses International Peace Meet

NC2904210991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Nabil Sha't, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has emphasized the importance of convening an international Middle East peace conference. He also underlined the importance of Palestinian representation in this conference because the Palestinians are a basic party to the Middle East conflict.

These comments came during the meeting between Sha't and a delegation representing the Middle East committee of Socialist International which took place on the sidelines of the committee's meetings. The meeting was attended by representatives of socialist parties in Belgium, France, Spain, Britain, and Denmark, and of the Israeli Mapam Party.

The PLO is an observer member in Socialist International.

### 'Arafat Receives Yemen's President Salih

LD2704203891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today met 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar informed the Yemeni president of the results of the meetings of the Central Council in its latest session and the important resolutions which were issued from it, in addition to the developments concerning the Palestinian cause and the political moves being made in this respect. [passage omitted]

## Algeria

### Nuclear Program Open to International Inspection

LD3004104991 Paris Domestic Service in French  
1000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Algeria says it is ready to submit its nuclear program to international inspection. Algiers is concerned about the international press campaign regarding its possible long-term capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

### Ministry Satisfied With UN Resolution 690

LD3004094491 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT  
30 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 30 Apr (APS)—Following the UN Security Council's ratification of Resolution 690 concerning the settlement of the conflict in the Western Sahara, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman made a statement in which he expressed "Algeria's satisfaction with the unanimous Security Council ratification of Resolution 690, which specifies the final points for implementing the United Nations and OAU plan for finding a settlement of the Western Sahara problem and which also approves the formation of a UN commission to organize the plebiscite in the Western Sahara."

The spokesman added: This way we start a decisive stage on the road toward a just and final settlement of the issue of the Western Sahara. The spokesman added: "The OAU peace plan, which was approved by the United Nations, and which aims at organizing a self-determination plebiscite for the people of the Western Sahara without any administrative or military pressures under the auspices of the United Nations and with the cooperation of the OAU, has become a crowning of the joint, concentrated efforts exerted by the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general with the firm and full support of Algeria."

The spokesman concluded his statement by saying: "Algeria cannot but salute Mr. Perez de Cuellar and the OAU chairman for their continuous efforts that were crowned by the completion of the aforementioned settlement plan that will open from now on the way for peace in the Western Sahara."

Algeria congratulates the Moroccan Kingdom and the Polisario Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Ord Front for this important gain along the road to settling the conflict in the Western Sahara.

Algeria remains convinced that this will consolidate the work toward constructing the Arab Maghreb Union and also peace and security in the region.

Algeria will spare no effort so that the plebiscite takes place in an atmosphere of calmness, confidence, and respect of the peace plan ratified by the UN Security Council. [sentence as received]

### \*Commission Forms New Political Party

91P40247A Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French  
7 Apr 91 p 24

[Text] Dr. Mohand Ainouche has sent the editorial staff a communique stating that an "independent commission" has proclaimed the establishment of a new political association called the Hizbolhaq [Party of Truth] and inspired by the "ideals of liberty and independence of 1 November 1954."

We have reproduced the main ideas of the communique as follows:

After extensive consultation with different groups of civilian society, an independent commission, formed for the purpose of conducting a thorough study of the country's economic, social, and cultural situation, announced its conclusions during a 30 March 1991 meeting in El Biar, Algiers.

After the debate that took place on this subject, the members of the independent commission were concerned that they might appear, by their silence, to support antinational, destabilizing organizations aiming to deprive the people of their victories achieved at such a high price in November 1954 and in October 1988. Thus they unanimously decided to take action in order to contribute, as much as possible, to the reinforcement of the democratic process in Algeria and to assured protection of the inalienable rights of the disadvantaged classes—the rights of dignity, justice, and progress.

In support of this ideal and in order to act within the framework of republican legality and with full respect for the constitutional principles which the commission supports without reserve, the independent commission has adopted a resolution whereby it proclaims the establishment of a national political party to be called the Hizbolhaq.

Inspired by the ideals of liberty and independence of 1 November 1954, by the spirit of revolt and justice of 5 October 1988, by democratic principles taken from Islam, and by age-old traditions of the Algerian people, the Hizbolhaq rejects the group of political dogmas that intend to ensnare civilian society in rigid and dysfunctional systems.

The Hizbolhaq stands firmly in the center-to-left position of the national spectrum and, to this effect, calls for the strategic union of all political formations, without exception, whose philosophy and action are part of the democratic and republican movement.

The independent commission has decided to authorize all citizens, especially those with particular skills and willing to bring a positive contribution to the establishment of the Hizbolhaq, to work on the upcoming constituent general assembly.

A technical commission will be formed very shortly in order to formulate the document requesting official approval of the party.

To contact the party, write to the Independent Commission for the Establishment of the Hizbolhaq, located at one of the following addresses:

1. No. 7, Sahel Building, Bouzareah, Algiers 16340.
2. St. Raphael, Bt. C, El-Biar, Algiers.

Algiers, 30 March 1991.

For the Independent Commission, [signed by] the coordinators:

Dr. Mohand A. Ainouche, Dr. Mohamed Mesloub, Mr. Slimane Azzoug, Mr. Hamid Mahiout.

### New Moderate Islamic Party Legalized

LD3004152891 Paris International Service  
in French 0530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] In Algeria a 43d political party has been legalized. It is a moderate Islamic movement called Hamas [also known as the National Society for Guidance and Reform, led by Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah].

### Ben Bella To 'Stand' in Presidential Election

LD2904090691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic  
0630 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, chairman of the Movement for Democracy and former Algerian president, has been in Chlef since yesterday where he met militants and cadres from his party. Our Chlef radio correspondent has sent us this report:

[Correspondent] The Hall of Militants Club was filled totally with the movement's militants, students, and curious people, while a huge crowd remained outside the hall. They all came to meet, and probably see, this figure who needs no introduction. Following a short speech, Ahmed Ben Bella preferred to answer various questions from those attending the meeting. These questions revolved around several topics, such as history, the Algerian revolution, the Gulf crisis, and national events. The latter formed the largest part of his talk.

Regarding the justification behind the birth of the idea of seven plus one, the chairman of the movement said that the ruling party monopolizes power in our country, and strives to close the doors on other political groups. This idea was brought about as an opposition front against this ruling party.

Islam forced France to leave Algeria. We do not need anybody to teach us lessons. Anybody who disavows the symbols of the revolution in fact denies [word indistinct] and that national unity is in danger [words indistinct] the chairman of the movement added.

Ahmed Ben Bella announced he will stand for the presidential elections, and called for the need for an early presidential elections. It is worth recalling that Ben Bella told the television program "Meet The Press" that he does not seek power.

The Shaykh, as he is called by his supporters, strongly condemned the recently amended election law. He considered that such a law was adopted to serve the present ruling authority. He wondered how one can compare the town of (Elysee) whose residents do not exceed 5,000, and Blida, whose inhabitants exceed 90,000. He indicated that the addition of 300 new constituencies is costing [word indistinct] parties millions of dinars.

Regarding the performance of pilgrimage rites this year, the chairman of the movement wondered how a Muslim Algeria could do such thing when he knows 5,000 U.S. soldiers are currently desecrating the holy land.

### Commentator Forecasts Election Results

LD2904141791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic  
1200 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] In light of current developments and the new activities by the parties, controversy has intensified over the nature of the electoral battle and its results, which will define the new political map in the homeland.

There are numerous interpretations: Here is one by our colleague Mohammed Halloub: In the light of, first, the division of the electoral constituencies; second, the political interactions on the level of the parties that call themselves democratic; third, the new developments pertaining to the Islamic current which, according to the latest reports, seems unable to achieve a coalition formula; and fourth, the signs of confidence shown by the FLN [National Liberation Front] about its ability to defeat the other parties including the [Islamic] Salvation Front, we can forecast the results of the elections. These results have been one of the most important preoccupations of the government in conjunction with the FLN. The most likely forecast is based on delicate geographical, political, and tribal calculations. According to these calculations, the results of the elections will be as follows:

The Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Socialist Forces Front in the Kabylia area and in some other areas where these two political forces are represented will get 100 seats each; 40 seats for the Movement for Democracy in Algeria; 60 seats for the small parties; 40 seats for the liberals; 160 seats for the Islamic trend parties—the Islamic Salvation Front, Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], and Ennahda—and 159 seats for the FLN.

According to this forecast, the FLN party will achieve a proportional majority and then embark on widening its presence inside the parliament by allying with the Liberals and one of the Islamic trend parties.

This forecast, which is based on the prevalent political atmosphere, could change according to the changes in

the various parties' command of the political arena between now and the elections.

### Egypt

#### 'Sources' Say Troops Returning From Gulf

NC3004130391 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT  
30 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, April 30 (AFP)—Egypt has begun quietly repatriating most of its 35,000 troops who were deployed in the Gulf in August in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, sources here said.

No official news has been released on the issue and a defense ministry spokesman told Agence France-Presse he was not aware of such an operation.

But Egyptian forces have already started to send back military equipment and soldiers on leave will not return to the Gulf, several sources agreed.

Efforts to send back two entire divisions deployed in the Gulf will begin in the next few days, a reliable source said, adding that the repatriation operation will proceed slowly because of logistic problems.

Egypt was the second largest Arab contingent, after Saudi Arabia, in the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf.

It sent an armored division and a mechanized division as well as two anti-air brigades, commandos and some 800 paratroopers based in the United Arab Emirates.

Officially, the number of Egyptian troops totalled 35,000 men, but a reliable military source put the figure at around 60,000.

#### Foreign Ministry Denounces Israeli Settlements

NC2904114791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Egypt again denounces Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, responsible sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said these activities are basically intended to frustrate current efforts for a peaceful settlement and a just solution to the Palestinian cause, which is the core of the Middle East conflict.

The sources added that they receive with censure [istihjan] reports from Israel about Israeli activity to build more settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The Foreign Ministry sources asked all international parties to express clearly to Israel their rejection and condemnation of these settlement policies, which threaten to impede the peace efforts and increase the lack of confidence in the Israeli Government's seriousness about these efforts.

The sources urged all peace-loving forces in Israel to confront these expansionist settlement activities during these sensitive circumstances, in which preparations are under way to initiate negotiations for a Middle East settlement.

#### 'Abd-al-Majid on Regional Peace Conference

NC2904164491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that neither the holding of a regional Middle East peace conference nor the start of dialogues between Israel and individual Arab countries will benefit the peace process in its current stage.

In an interview published in today's edition of the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that an international peace conference is the proper framework to find a final settlement of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt's views on the settlement of the Palestinian issue are based on the following criteria: Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in June 1967; and the fulfillment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the rights endorsed by Arab, Islamic, and international organizations, which include the Palestinian people's right for self-determination, for a state of their own, and for participation in all the efforts aimed at settling Palestinian issue and safeguarding the security and stability of all the nations in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab house needs to be put in order and that plans should be drawn for renovating the Arab League mechanism to enable it to become an influential instrument in shaping joint Arab policy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is eager to strengthen the Arab League and boost its role in providing security for Arab countries and for protecting the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of these countries.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt has called for a meeting between experts from the eight countries that signed the Damascus Declaration. The proposed meeting will work out details of the ideas contained in that declaration and implement them.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Egyptian foreign policy is based on a number of principles that are in harmony with the changes that have occurred in the international order, as well as in the Arab region.

### Ministry Official on 'Obstacles' to Conference

NC2704171491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT  
27 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today called on Israel to remove obstacles from the path of negotiations.

In statements made this afternoon, Dr. al-Baz said: "If negotiations take place, Israel should show flexibility."

He emphasized that "Israel must make up its mind and go along with the aspirations of the Middle East region to start peace negotiations."

Dr. al-Baz said that he hopes nothing is done to dampen the current worldwide momentum for peace. He called on Israel to stop all settlement activities because it jeopardizes confidence and Palestinians and other Arabs will not believe Israel is serious about negotiations.

He said that when Israel changes the geographical and demographic situation it makes reaching a solution later "difficult."

Dr. al-Baz added: "We do not want to set up barriers; we want the door open for an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian entity through union [ittihad] with Jordan, through a confederal union [ittihad kunfidirali] between them, or through any formula acceptable to both parties."

Dr. al-Baz noted that Israel has a specific option: To adopt the policies and stands that will bring us closer to convening a peace conference.

He said that a new plan is now being pursued by the United States, that the Soviet Union has a positive role in it, and that the European states are also qualified to play a role. He said that the Third World states also can contribute to these efforts.

Dr. al-Baz welcomed an active European role, noting that Europe can help in preparing for the Middle East peace conference or in helping to bring about its success.

He said that this will not detract from the idea of direct negotiations among the states concerned with the conflict.

In his statement, Dr. al-Baz emphasized that it is not in the interest of the Arabs to think that a solution can be imposed on the parties to the conflict, to evade direct negotiations, or to think that there is a third party that will negotiate, as this will harm the Arab interests.

Dr. al-Baz noted that Egypt has carried out negotiations with Israel and emerged triumphant with its commitments and interests intact.

He said that Egypt is capable of negotiating with Israel because the issue is just and it has the support of the international forces, especially the influential ones.

### Summit in Kuwait With GCC, Syria Denied

NC2704161991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1508 GMT  
27 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has dismissed as untrue news reports that a summit involving the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Egypt, and Syria will be held in Kuwait. The source described the news as totally untrue.

### Newspapers Criticize U.S., Israeli Policies

#### Israeli 'Intransigence' Seen

NC2904151491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0647 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR discuss U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts during his regional tour and Israel's intransigent attitude to these efforts.

Under the headline "Progress and Optimism", AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the five points on which the United States and Israel have agreed do not address the basics of the issue. The five points basically discuss formal procedures of the regional conference, which has been proposed instead of an international conference. This is true despite U.S. President George Bush's optimism about the possibility of a settlement and despite reports about progress in Baker's talks in Israel.

The paper says that the proposed conference does not have any power during negotiations, in adopting resolutions, in intervening to rearrange conditions, or even in directing the talks in the desired way. The conference, the paper adds, consists merely of a single procedural session under the patronage of the United States and the Soviet Union, succeeded by direct negotiations between the parties concerned.

The paper notes that, in the event negotiations become deadlocked, no party, according to these five points, has the right to ask for reconvening the conference. This fact serves Israel, encourages its intransigence, and helps it to bring the negotiations to a stalemate.

The paper stresses that these formalities do not touch the core issue: The principle of exchanging land for peace and the implementation of the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. The reason these formalities do not address the basic issue is because Israel rejects this principle and any UN role, as well as the content of the two Security Council resolutions.

AL-AKHBAR says that the U.S. State Department statement, which stresses that the success of the peace efforts is contingent upon the Israeli side, offers a clear picture of the outcome of Baker's regional tour that aimed to fulfill U.S. promises to settle all conflicts in the region after the liberation of Kuwait.

The paper hopes that the U.S. secretary of state is convinced after his numerous and intensive talks that Israel and its illegitimate ambitions are the first, if not the basic, obstacle to any peace or quiet that may prevail in the Middle East after nearly half a century of wars and conflicts.

The paper also expresses hope that Baker has been convinced that continued U.S. support for Israel is the secret behind Israel's obstinacy, intransigence, and insistence on maintaining its control over the (Arab) land that had been occupied by force and brutal repressive methods. The paper also hopes that Baker has been convinced that any effort exerted to establish peace as long as the United States continues its policy with Israel is useless.

The paper calls for solving this difficult equation, which all U.S. presidents and secretaries of state have failed to solve—America's right to have a heeded voice in the Israeli stand which wrecks all peace efforts.

#### U.S. Should 'Pressure' Israel

NC2804052491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT  
27 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—In its 28 April issue, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces Israel's position toward the peace efforts in the Middle East. The paper states that Washington is well aware of Shamir government's continued efforts to sabotage any attempt to launch serious negotiations among the various parties to find an acceptable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In its editorial, the paper adds that despite the diplomatic language used by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his tour of the region in a bid to impart a measure of optimism, it is no secret that whenever he visits Tel Aviv he runs up against the wall of the Israeli position.

In this respect, the paper notes that Israel's leaders have not the slightest qualms or hesitation about announcing their position, including their absolute rejection of the principle of land for peace. These leaders believe that if they hold out long enough, they will ultimately get both land and peace.

The paper notes that Baker's repeated tours of the region are a good sign, indicating that U.S. President Bush remains steadfast in his attempts to honor his promises to resolve the Middle East problems and that he is still hopeful some kind of success can be achieved.

In conclusion, the paper stresses that the U.S. hopes will never be realized as long as Washington persists in its claim, which would not convince even the most junior student of politics; that is, that the government of the strongest country in the world cannot apply any kind of pressure on a small country which would not survive a single day without its unstinting assistance.

#### U.S. Asks Much, Gives Only 'Promises'

PM2904095391 Cairo AL-SHAB in Arabic  
22 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Mahmud Bakri: "U.S. Political and Economic Pressures Affect Baker-Brady Talks in Cairo"]

[Text] U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady regarded his talks in Cairo as complementary to the talks being conducted by James Baker.

On that basis, Washington is seeking to impose further political and economic conditions on Egypt. The secretary of the treasury came to Cairo to discuss some of the urgent economic demands submitted by the Egyptian Government to the U.S. Administration to tackle the complications resulting from the agreement concluded with the IMF. But—as is typical of the United States in such cases—the response to any Egyptian demands remains subject to Egypt's agreement to some conditions. The U.S. conditions this time are part of Israel's interests. This is because Egypt is being asked to encourage trade exchange between the Arabian Gulf states and Israel. It is also expected to play the role of a mediator between the two sides to secure a suitable formula for economic cooperation between the Arab states and Israel.

The U.S. treasury secretary emphasized in his talks with Planning Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri that Egypt's response to these demands, and other demands, would prompt the U.S. Administration to provide sufficient aid to it and contribute to reducing the Egyptian balance of payments deficit.

The outcome of the treasury secretary's talks is that all Egyptian demands are now subject to Washington's conditions, while all that Egypt has obtained is more promises."

The chapters continue to be written in the U.S. conspiracy: Here is Secretary of State James Baker touring the region from one end to the other and, according to information, offering nothing new in his talks with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid last Saturday and Sunday. In fact this time he has obtained an open agreement from the Egyptian Government to participate in the regional conference proposed by Washington.

That conference is nothing but a link in the U.S.-Zionist scheme designed to eliminate the Palestinian issue. The insistence on partial solutions is still the basis in Baker's talks and proposals. The exclusion of the PLO—the Palestinian people's legitimate representative—is encountering an Arab response. In fact, information indicates that what has been reported about U.S. agreement to Europe's participation in the regional conference is inaccurate.

The only point of disagreement between Israel and Washington was represented in a U.S. insistence on the participation of Palestinians from East Jerusalem in the

Jordanian delegation that will represent the Palestinian side in the negotiations—which Israel rejects.

As for the position on the settlements issue, the director of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office was very clear when he revealed the content of a secret agreement reached with Baker under which Israel would continue to build settlements and Washington would continue the policy of media protests.

In that regard political sources have revealed to AL-SHA'B the content of an agreement signed in Washington recently under which the United States would provide additional aid to Israel to build more settlements costing \$400 million.

#### AL-AKHBAR Warns of Iraqi Attempts To Rearm

NC3004063491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR calls on the international community to pay more attention to Saddam Husayn's attempts to rebuild his military following the catastrophe he caused by occupying Kuwait.

In its editorial today, the paper says: The quantity of weapons and missiles used by the Armed Forces of the ruling regime in Baghdad, which it is hiding until the coalition forces withdraw, shows that the danger still exists. In addition, Iraq is trying to rebuild its military machine and import weapons covertly despite the Security Council resolutions banning this.

AL-AKHBAR adds: It appears that the elation of victory has blinded the United States and its allies to the dangers still lurking under the ashes in Iraq. Iraq must be closely observed as long as its regime is led by the same gang that committed a series of crimes, starting with the occupation of Kuwait and the massacres of Kurds in northern Iraq and the Shites in the south.

#### Mubarak Receives West European Union Delegation

NC2004212191 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a 19-member West European Union delegation in the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. The delegation is currently visiting Cairo. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the head of the delegation said that issues discussed included all aspects of the Middle East problem after the Gulf crisis, the future of cooperation and security in the region, and the European role in taking part in solving the Middle East problem. He said that President Mubarak showed interest in the issue of Arab-European dialogue to achieve peace and stability in the region, interest that won the admiration of all parties. He expressed the delegation members' admiration for President Mubarak's complete frankness and the seriousness in which all issues were discussed.

#### Swiss Official Concludes Visit, Departs 30 Apr

NC3004063491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Klaus Jacobs, state secretary in the Swiss Foreign Ministry, left Cairo this morning at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour of the region that included Jordan, Syria, and Israel. [passage omitted]

#### Libya

##### Al-Qadhafi Addresses Lawyers Union

LD2004133591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2024 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Address by Leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi at the opening of a meeting of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union in Benghazi on 27 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, we are pleased with this meeting, which brings together the brother lawyers in their own country. I am also happy about the sincere words I have heard on the part of the brother secretary general and the brother chairman of the Arab Lawyers Union, words that have expressed what we all feel in our hearts. Perhaps a lot of what is going to be said will be a repeat of what was already said by the brothers who have already spoken. This unity, in view of analysis and feelings, indicates the unity of the sons of this nation. We are not expressing different feelings or different aspirations indicating cultural, historical, or future-related differences. This is one nation, one people, with one history, one fate, one culture. On various occasions, I had repeated in the Arab countries that this myth about differences is, in reality, a lie, a lie fabricated by the Arab governments. The reality has proved the correctness of this statement. We used to hear about very big differences between South and North Yemen, but we used to say that this was one country, not two. When just the political positions changed, the leadership moved from Aden to San'a and stayed in San'a, in one capital. Then, overnight, we found out that Yemen was one country. (Impossible) to differentiate between its north and south, and suddenly the big differences disappeared that were said to have existed, for which several committees were formed to study them, to promote the situation in the north and the south, and to overcome obstacles. The only obstacles were a few mountains and some sand in the two regions. There was nothing forming an obstacle. [passage omitted]

Unity has been realized. Where are the differences they used to mention concerning infrastructure, institutions, and development? It has transpired to be a lie. What was expressed by the brothers indicated a unity of culture, view, aspiration, hope, and destiny. These differences are, in fact, made by governments. The Arab states, more than 20 of them, are made by colonialism, but rulers believed in them, and found in them appropriate spots to set up feudalism.

farm, and [word indistinct] for each of them. Nothing more than that, in reality. There are not real differences in practice that made 20 states. When we hear about Tunisia, in fact there is a town called Tunis; it is not a state. Algeria means Algiers, the town of Algiers. But, who made it this way? Colonialism did perhaps, and we believed in it, and we made borders for it.

Morocco. What does this mean? We are all part of Morocco, Egypt; Morocco belongs to the Arab nation. There is no such thing as Morocco on its own. Morocco used to be called Marrakech, in the past. The same thing applies to Mauritania. It used to be called Chenguit, and as you know, there is a town in Libya called Chenguit. [passage omitted]

As for whether Algeria is Arab, and as for its current composition, well, I cannot really talk about that now, because that composition cannot boast of any governmental constituent, be it an artificial or non-artificial government. Lately, and during the recent crisis, it became clear that these states were European protectorates. They were unable to defend for one single day the entities which they created. The question I would like to ask is the following: Why did you create such entities, when you cannot defend them for one single day?

This was not meant to be an anti-U.S. gesture. They said that as the Iraqi Army invaded Kuwait, why not bring the United States? Obviously, we all agree that we are against the invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army. We are against this type of irresponsibility; we are against this farce resulting in a catastrophe that is totally illogical, from beginning to end.

One wonders how this could have happened. When Kuwait was advised to forge a unity with Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE [United Arab Emirates], it was told that they should establish unity. Kuwait said no, and claimed to be a state capable of looking after itself, and that it was self-sufficient. How can you do this, Kuwait was asked. The Kuwaitis stated they could defend themselves. They could not even defend themselves on the Arab level, or solve Arab differences. They could not withstand these differences. The Kuwaitis said they would be steadfast [words indistinct] until Kuwait was occupied by the Iraqi Army. What would have happened if Kuwait had been invaded by the Saudi Army, or any other army? Kuwait cannot resist, because it lacks a state component. Not to mention Qatar and Bahrain. Bahrain is these days simply an advanced military base for the U.S. fleet. Qatar is not a state. I do not like to talk about our brothers, poor people, living in that region. I do not talk about them, because one cannot talk about such people—Because they do not represent individual states that one can talk about. [passage omitted]

These days we find ourselves in a worse situation than what existed during the era of colonialism, when the colonialists appointed an emir in one state, a king in the next, and a president for life in another. Each one of these states is now consolidating its borders, exerting its

authority and tyranny over the region. You yourselves talk about oppression, about tyranny against Arab nationals, against free people and people with opinions. One should follow this policy because such rulers believe in the existence of a government. People cannot be allowed to break government law. People should respect government duties. These duties lie in establishing borders, a police system, building prisons, setting up intelligence service networks. Nobody should oppose this government. Otherwise, this government would not be a true government.

This is the theory behind establishing a government. Even if one tries to enter into discussions with an oppressive ruler, the latter uses the pretext of the law and the government to justify his acts. He may even quote Jean-Jacques Rousseau's social contract theory, and insist that people respect the government so that it can carry out its duties according to the law. The U.S. Government is daily facing our crises and instability. This means that even security is being jeopardized, and people do not feel safe about their existence. They in fact find themselves in these circumstances. As long as there is a government, there will automatically be oppression. [passage omitted]

If you will allow me, I would like to talk to you about certain things that are real and useful, because I have heard from you certain words about Sudan. Sudan is of concern to us as Libyans, Egyptians, and Sudanese in particular, as well as Arabs in general.

I have said that problems had been created between Sudan and Egypt; those problems are created in fact by official apparatuses. The Sudanese people, and the Egyptian people, are real brothers; they live together and they love each other. It is the press and the Mukhabarat [intelligence services] [laughs] that are trying to make reports. [laughs again] The press and the Mukhabarat try to achieve the same aim [laughs] of poisoning the atmosphere and torpedoing relations. The last two tasks are carried out by the Mukhabarat and the press. When the press does not belong to the government, wherever the latter exists [laughs again], it will try to flatter the government or try to oppose it.

I do not think that the situation in Sudan is as bad as you were trying to assert. First, because the Sudanese regime—and here are facts one should take into consideration, because we should not be like the man on the street who believes propaganda from the radio; we should be more serious and firm—is the only Arab regime that has set up pan-Sudanese conferences for dialogue, unparalleled in the rest of the Arab world—whether they be to resolve the problem of the South, or the problem of authority in Sudan. There is a certain seriousness in Sudan in other words, and I can affirm to you this fact, regardless of your apparent conclusions about the situation in Sudan. There is a serious endeavor in Sudan to resolve the problem of democracy there. Therefore, why should the confrontation between the Army and the parties go on? Is it not time for such a

game to end? For this purpose a conference for dialogue, lasting for more than 100 days, was held; all Sudanese forces took part in it. Before that there was also the conference for dialogue for resolving the problem of the South; Garang was even invited, several times, to attend it. He was given guarantees, but he declined the invitation. Sudan's North, South, East, and West all attended the conference. Only Sudan has done this.

On the other hand if there is any objection on what they call the Islamic Front and the National Front, this front is not a military one. It claims that it is a broad popular front embracing all the people. And if such a front supports the regime then the latter is a popular one. If the regime was, however, supported by any front other than the Islamic Front would we then say that such a regime is a good one but is not so now because is it being supported by this front? Well this is also a popular front. This front was in opposition when Sadiq al-Mahdi was prime minister and Mr. Mirghani was also in power. This front represented the opposition while those two men were in power representing the Ummah Party and the Unionist party. This front, what they call the Islamic and the National Front, represented the opposition. When the two parties fell from power following the Army's revolution for national salvation, the front supported the new regime in view of the fact that it was in opposition and thereby supported the blow dealt by the two parties. [passage indistinct]

Secondly, following a dialogue of more than 100 days, which was attended by all Sudanese forces, it has been decided to set up a people's authority in Sudan—the current regime there is only temporary—to set up people's committees and a people's congress. What other Arab regime has decided to follow the Jamahiri theory and relinquish power to the people?

In the situation of traditional forces trying to hinder such an orientation it is possible then that their freedom could be restricted by those who are trying to help the country overcome its difficulties. [passage omitted]

If we were going to set up a Jamahiri system in Libya and hand power over to the people and there are people who are eager to reign over the Libyan people, then we would have to confront them; we might even restrict their freedom and finish them off. And, once upon a time, this happened: protests were levelled against it. There are people who would like to govern the Libyan people [words indistinct]. I want the Libyan people to govern themselves. And anyone who tries to oppose me in this respect and bar me from achieving such an aim must be liquidated. What would you call this? You can call it oppression or dictatorship. You can call it whatever you like, the most important thing is the fact that the people will win in the end by governing itself. So any opposition against the people must be annihilated, otherwise the situation will be a joke as in Algeria today where every group of 15 people can set up a party. [passage omitted]

The Christians themselves renounced this law. They said you should turn both the left and right cheeks. The Christians whom we are hitting will turn their left cheek and give us their necks. As for Sudan, I do not perceive the situation being as bad as you yourselves imagine it. When the Jamahiriya was established in Libya, even the government, the Army, and classical institutions disappeared; ordinary classical institutions such as those of lawyers used to exist at the time and the lawyers were integrated into the courts. [passage omitted]

The United States used to be against the revolution in Libya. Unfortunately, the United States could have exploited you without you knowing it. During Numayri's times, Sudan used to be a U.S. colony. These days Sudan is trying to distance itself from the United States—what is strange is that Sudan has opposed the United States regarding the issue of Iraq, and we all agree that the position of Iraq was 100 percent wrong from start to finish, we were against it, you have all witnessed the end results of this position, and from the beginning we knew that such was the case. But Sudan supported Iraq against the United States. In fact this means that any opposition voiced against Sudan these days is being instigated by the United States. I am certain that the position of Arab lawyers and that of some movements in the past against Libya was prompted by the United States. Whether you were aware of this or not, I do not necessarily mean you personally. Either you knew or did not know, intentionally or unintentionally. What I am saying is that the United States was against Libya, consequently, anybody who was against Libya fell in the U.S. line, whether he knew this or not. When our houses were the target of bombs, the union of lawyers asked itself where the Libyan lawyers were. Libyan lawyers were present. [passage omitted]

These days, the United States is in confrontation with Sudan. Irrespective of the present regime in Sudan, I am against all these regimes that are based on government and people. You know this. I represent a new jamahiri system. This is a new theory. If it is successful, it will be successful against current world regimes. Therefore one should not think that I am defending a clever lawyer, or that I am defending government regimes. The United States is now confronting Sudan; and when you are against Sudan, this means the United States, lawyers, Numayri, Israel—all form one front against Sudan. I do not believe that this is in our interests. [passage omitted]

We have decided to embark on full integration, remove borders, get closer to one another, unite, develop the Arab League, manage our institutions, and introduce democracy in this field. At least like what is happening now in the West. [as heard] The rulers of the West do not like each other. Thatcher and Mitterrand hate each other. Major and Kohl hate each other. All Europeans hate the U.S. ruler. For the sake of the supreme interests of this bloc, in this West they embrace each other, kiss one another, meet together, form a common market, and set up a military alliance. This is right, because this falls within the framework of their responsibilities.

As for us, we squander the supreme responsibilities for personal issues. This one has sworn at the president, then all the country goes to hell. I do not want a union with that country any more. Why? Because it has sworn at me! This country is yours and mine. What did we say? If these leaders try and rescue their peoples, then all these problems will end in a single day.

There are no problems between Sudan and Egypt. There are no problems at all. These are fabricated problems. The United States is behind every division in the Arab homeland; we must know that; therefore, we can never be on the U.S. side. You have seen. Despite the fact that we were against that appalling action in Kuwait, at the end it became clear that the U.S. preoccupation was not the liberation of Kuwait. They lied to us and said: We will liberate Kuwait, then we will withdraw. You can see that they are developing it day by day, from humiliation to the destruction of the basic infrastructure of Iraq to the strengthening of the Israelis. Tomorrow, after the end of this issue, they will come to Libya. They will look for al-Rabitah factory, or look for I don't know what. This is for the Israeli's benefit. If it does not end, we will end it. They supply Israel with missiles and with the Dimona reactor.

Why do the Arab rulers, who are friends of the United States, at least tell her to use force against the Israelis in order that they withdraw from the territories from which the UN Security Council decided that they should withdraw? At least the UN Security Council has decided that Israel should withdraw from the territories it has occupied, and it refused to withdraw. No settlements should be built in the territories occupied in 1967. Until today, Israel builds settlements despite what the UN says. How? Are the UN resolutions sacred? Why are they sacred in the case of Iraq and not sacred in the case of the Israelis? Is there an Arab who will say these words? They are clear before the United States.

As far as the United States is concerned, we have decided either to die or to live with our heads held high. We are not equal to the U.S. military power, who has intercontinental missiles and aircraft carriers and other things we know. We are not saying the same thing as the Iraqis did. We know the dangers, and they are unreasonable. What we can do is to die with honor. Either we die or live in our land with honor. We cannot say: Yes, America, this is white. What do you want? Black! Then, yes, this is black. By God, we will keep saying this is white, this is white. If you want to hit me, go ahead, but as long as this thing is white then we will say that it is white. What is happening now in the Arab countries is: This is white, but the United States says it is black, then they say it is black. This is the situation in the Arab countries.

Do you know that the United States has imposed a veto on Sudan, Egypt, and Libya that they should not grow corn or wheat in Sudan! We said to them: This is corn and not nuclear matter. They said: As far as the United States is concerned, there is no difference between corn and nuclear matter, and both are forbidden to you. They

said: They are both forbidden to you. Yes, there is a U.S. veto. Go and challenge it! Challenge the U.S. veto! Let Libya and Egypt go and plant in Sudan. Sudan has no objection. Plant the wheat in quantities sufficient for Libya and Egypt and perhaps sufficient for the Arab countries. Go and challenge the United States! I assure you that there is a U.S. veto on that, because we might be hungry and kneel before the United States. So that we might be able to eat from the wheat which comes in the U.S. ships and which is at the end conditional on our annihilation.

What is this? Man does not live by bread alone. Do we live only by U.S. wheat? Are we just breathing and surviving? Or are we living honorably over the Earth? The Arab struggle is a reality, and you are at the forefront of its perceptive vanguard. The Arab struggle should adopt a new course and establish a new historic watershed. The struggle within the context of the traditional forms is a waste of time.

Despite the fact that I am making an effort between Sudan and Egypt and others and that I am trying, God willing, to secure a meeting between President Mubarak and al-Bashir—I have nothing to reproach any of them with, since they are clean, excellent, and want Arab unity and Arab strength, etc. —but, I do not know, there is something that I cannot see that is dividing them. It is they who...[voice from audience interrupts, saying: "Ask al-Bashir"] Yes, I have been asking him, and he says: I have no objection. He said: Even if they bring 5 million Egyptians to live in Sudan, or even 10 million, and they plant, I will look after them. This is what I get when I ask al-Bashir. Brother Husni in reality does not bear any hatred to anyone. His heart is clean, he loves the Arabs, and he wants Arab unity, etc. He tries to bring Arab ranks together. [passage omitted]

I oppose any attempt to divide the Arab ranks, whether between Egypt and Syria, Egypt and Sudan, or Libya and Egypt. Despite the recognition of Egypt, which is a totally ugly thing, everything is acceptable for the sake of the unity of the Arab nation. We will overcome Israel, the United States, and everyone with Arab unity. I am proposing Cairo. True, I used to say al-Maqdurah because the Israeli flag is there. At one time, I used to say this, but now, I go to brother Husni Mubarak, and I say to him: Listen, Cairo must be the capital of the Arabs. All the rest are suburbs: Damascus, Baghdad, Tripoli, Algiers, Khartoum are suburbs. Yes, Cairo must be the capital of the nation, and we must unite ranks.

I tried to have Arab League headquarters transferred to Egypt to end this flaw to us by the presence of the two leagues. On the other hand, you should call for the immediate removal of borders. As a matter of fact, the presence of the Tunisian gate and the Egyptian gate after Libya had demolished its gates is unacceptable, and there must be a daily pressure exerted for the removal of these gates so that the Arab citizen may be able to move from Tunis to Egypt without anyone stopping him, to sell anywhere, to reside anywhere, to live anywhere.

The great thing done by Egypt during the time of President Husni—it is true that this was never realized before—was the adoption of the ten agreements between Libya and Egypt, which had traversed very important stages on the road to unity. The Egyptian People's Assembly, with the efforts of the president and your efforts, has adopted the right for Libyans to reside, work, and own property in Egypt. On their part, the people's congresses in Libya are now busy studying these agreements, and I believe that, given their unionist leanings, they will adopt them, and next month, at the general people's congress, the law will be drafted that will allow the Egyptian citizens to reside, work, and own property in Libya just as Libyans do. This is a very great action.

Gates between Tunisia and Algeria be removed. [sentence as heard] Now, people stand in queues before the gate in Tunisia. When they finish at the gate in Tunisia, they enter Libya immediately. There is no one asking them to pay customs duties. Likewise, people coming with scores of vehicles carrying goods for Libya are stopped in al-Sallum. They are made to pay customs duties, and they are asked: where are you going? After they leave al-Sallum, they find no one before them in Libya; they enter Libya immediately. Some carry perishable goods, and others see their activity impeded.

At any rate, customs are in the interests of who? Customs increase the price of goods to only consumers. What is this story of customs? After all, how much are the revenues of Egypt from the al-Sallum gate? Or Tunisia's revenues from the Ras Jedir gate? How much are the revenues? I here declare in front of you that Libya pledges to compensate for any losses incurred by the budget of Tunisia, or that of Egypt, as a result of the abolition of the customs at the gates of al-Sallum and Ras Jedir. [passage omitted]

#### **Radio on Israeli Settlements in West Bank, Gaza**

LD3004153291 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic  
1230 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpts] It was disclosed in occupied Palestine yesterday that the so-called Ministry of Housing and Construction of the Zionist entity has prepared a plan for the construction of 10,000 new housing units for the Zionist settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Reports arriving in Amman from occupied Palestine quoted the chairman of the so-called Zionist Settlements Council as saying in a statement to a Zionist newspaper that the majority of the new housing units were imported pre-fabricated houses. Here is a report on this subject:

The Zionists continue to build settlements in occupied Palestine within the framework of their expansionist, colonialist policy at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people who reject all the designs of imperialism which are aimed at the settlement of the Zionists in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

The analysts note these days that the Zionists have been adamant and persistent in building more settlements

thereby flouting all the UN resolutions and all the calls made by the international community and have refused to implement all the international resolutions on withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The analysts ask: Why doesn't the United Nations Security Council respect its resolutions and insure their implementation, even by force, by the Israelis with the same zeal and fervor it used in implementing its similar resolutions with respect to Iraq when Kuwait was occupied.

Thus it is evidently clear that the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council are unable to adopt a resolution providing for the use of force against Israel.

#### **Sudan**

##### **Release of Political Prisoners Announced**

NC2904105291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1003 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (MENA)—It has been decided to release all political prisoners in Sudan and to refer all protective custody procedures to the judiciary in accordance with the law.

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the national constitutional conference, announced this at the opening session of the national conference this morning. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and Somali Prime Minister Arteh Ghalib attended the session.

Dr. Jalal 'Ali Lutfi, Sudanese chief justice, told the MENA correspondent in Khartoum that there are approximately 100 political prisoners in Sudan.

Our correspondent also learned that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is not among those in prison but is only in protective custody pending trial.

The conference will last for four days.

##### **Ex-Premier Released**

EA3004124291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT  
30 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, announced a general amnesty for those who carried arms against the revolution. The announcement came on the occasion of the convening of the founding conference on the political system.

The general amnesty, he said, will comprise all politicians in opposition to the revolution abroad. It also includes all those who opposed the revolution since its eruption in June 1989 up to now. The amnesty will be valid for a month as of today. In addition, he announced release of political detainees including Sadiq al-Mahdi

ex-prime minister and Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqd secretary general of the banned Sudanese Communist Party.

#### **Somalia's Prime Minister Arrives 28 Apr**

*EA2904125091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0943 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 29 April (SUNA)—Somalian Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib arrived here yesterday on a short visit during which he will hold talks with the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Lt. Gen 'Umar al-Bashir.

The Somali official was received by member of the RCC Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and Col al-Tayyib Ibrahim Khayr, minister of presidential affairs, in addition to some other ministers.

It is to be recalled that this is the first visit by Mr. Ghalib to Sudan since his assuming of power in Somalia.

#### **Meets With Al-Bashir**

*EA3004102691 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] This morning, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir met Mr. Omar Arteh Ghalib, the Somali prime minister, with whom he discussed the current situation in Somalia. The Somali prime minister expressed admiration for the constituent conference on the political system and the way the conference was managed [word indistinct] the lands all the freedom and frankness in accordance with Arab and Islamic tradition.

On the objectives of the Somali delegation's visit to Sudan, his excellency said: We came to brief the Sudanese people on the current situation in Somalia and on the latest developments in the ongoing civil war, and to consult the chairman of the Revolution Command Council on issues concerning the Arab masses and the unity of Arab policy.

On the current situation in Somalia, his excellency said that what had happened in Somalia, namely the destruction of all public utilities and financial institutions, was unprecedented. He stressed his determination to reconstruct Somalia with the help of God and the Arab brothers. He appealed to the warring parties to sit around the table of dialogue to consult on their future and avoid differences. His excellency hailed Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir's initiative to send a delegation to establish the truth of the events in Somalia. [passage indistinct]

#### **Al-Bashir Receives King Husayn's Message**

*AB2904124091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 28 Apr 91*

[Text] The chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers has received a written message from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's crown prince, Hasan Bin-Talal, concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries. This transpired when his excellency received yesterday in his office at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum Dr. 'Abd al-Latif Arbiyyat, speaker of the Jordanian parliament. Dr. Arbiyyat said that the message covered the strengthening of cooperation ties in the economic, social, and cultural fields and that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has entrusted him with two oral messages to King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan.

## Kuwait

### Decision on Ties With Pro-Iraq States Upheld

LD2604215591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2006 GMT 26 Apr 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] It was stated in Riyadh yesterday that the State of Kuwait still maintains its decision to reduce diplomatic representation in a number of Arab states which supported the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. An official statement released by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Riyadh confirmed the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has taken a practical stand toward this matter by recalling its ambassadors in Yemen, Mauritania, Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, and Tunisia as they were considered to be among the states which supported the criminal invasion.

On the other hand, the statement dismissed a statement attributed to Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin concerning suspension of Kuwaiti aid and loans to the Arab states which sided with Iraq. The statement said that Mr. al-Shahin never made a statement in this connection.

### Amir Asks Leading Officials To 'Set an Example'

PM2904083391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT  
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Apr 91 p 1

[Article by Muhammad al-Rumayhi: "Government of Great Tasks"]

[Text] During his reception of the head and members of the new government the country's amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, proposed the formation of a national committee in which specialists and citizens would participate and whose task would be to follow up the affairs of the POW's and the people missing from among our kinfolk and to make contacts to ensure their safe return to the homeland.

That generous initiative by the amir reveals above all that the priority is the release of our sons and their return to their families safe and healthy—which requires the efforts of all, both government and citizens. It also reveals that the government of the great tasks, as his highness has described it, is not the magic solution to all the occupation's complications and the destruction it left in all the country's facilities, but it is part of that solution, as there is no other choice except the efforts of all citizens. This is in order to eliminate the vestiges of the aggression: First and foremost returning sons to their families, carrying out the rebuilding process, and safeguarding the thrust of national unity, whatever the interpretations.

What applies to the release of our sons who are POW's applies to the other great tasks. Besides, the liberation of Kuwait cannot be completed without freeing the last of our POW sons from Saddam's prisons. Honoring the

martyrs' families is not just a government task, since we all owe a debt to the martyrs who offered their blood for the sake of liberating our territory and preserving our identity, and we must pay it, each in his own way. Undoubtedly the amir's grant to the martyrs' families will enable these families to bear the burdens of life. The honoring of the martyrs and their families by the entire society is a national duty in which all must participate in recognition of their role and great sacrifices. Perhaps allocating a martyrs' day for us all to celebrate would be a step toward that goal.

Then comes the security issue, which is highlighted by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the country's amir; and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. It is a central issue, and the responsibility for it does not fall on the shoulder of the government alone, because it concerns all citizens. Perhaps what we need at this stage is to implement the slogan "every citizen is a guard." This is because security should be given precedence over bread, water, and electricity. The homeland needs security first, and when the citizen feels secure he becomes able to give and to mobilize his efforts and energies for the sake of participating in rebuilding the homeland.

His highness the amir requested the ministers and officials not to confine themselves to official working hours and to match their words with action, not because ministers and officials are the ones that can work and achieve, but in order for these officials to set an example for others to follow, so that they will join them in carrying out the great tasks. Field participation is the healthy and sound start for the general election which Shaykh Sa'ad emphasized would be held next year. The new cabinet's tasks after the predicament we have experienced and the immense destruction around us, go beyond mobilizing our theoretical reserves, volubility, and social relationships. That is the sound criterion for building the homeland. Our example is the ability of Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister, to realize great tasks.

### Defense Minister Discusses Restructuring Army

LD2704133291 London KUNA in Arabic 1158 GMT  
27 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 Apr (KUNA)—In his first press interview since the formation of a new government, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that Kuwait will reconsider the structure of the Kuwaiti Army and will rely on advance technology in armament and equipment.

In an interview with KUNA here today he added: It would be natural for us to rely on advance technology instead of large numbers, which is not possible in view of the demographic nature of Kuwait. He said: Meanwhile, we will continue with compulsory conscription. This will be done in an intensive way to provide the required numbers and advanced training.

Kuwait has imposed compulsory conscription, and it was the first country in the region to implement it. The period of service varies: It is one year for conscripts who hold a university or higher degree, and two years for those who have lower qualifications.

The Kuwaiti defense minister said that the aim of intensifying conscription now is to provide a competent manpower able to defend the homeland against any attack.

Regarding the current situation in Kuwait, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said: Great efforts are being made to remove the effects of the war. We must take into consideration that this is a task which aims at removing what took place in Kuwait over seven months by around half a million Iraqi soldiers who devoted themselves to dastardly acts of planting mines and amassing weapons in a way one cannot imagine. To remove all of that is a difficult task but, on the orders of God, we will remove all of these transgressions.

The Kuwaiti minister of defense said: For example, we have removed from one school 17 truck loads of Iraqi ammunition which had been stored in schools and other places in Kuwait. It will require a period of not less than four to six months from the start of the removal operation after the liberation.

He said: The removal of mines, which were planted in Kuwait on land, on the coastline, and in the sea is presently under way and it will take between a year and 18 months. He urged Kuwaitis not to venture outside the limits of paved roads and streets which are safe and are clear of mines: to venture inland would be very dangerous. He said that a period of one year to 18 months is needed to insure that these areas are clear of danger; the areas are being combed and then combed again to make sure that there is no danger to passers-by.

He said that the Kuwaiti Government is giving priority to the removal of mines from the oil well areas to provide safety to the fire extinguishing operations there, and giving priority to the Kuwaiti coastline and shores to make it possible for Kuwaitis to enjoy a nice summer. That will take between three and four months from the start of the cleansing and mine removal operations. [passage omitted]

#### Minister Receives Egyptian, Japanese Delegations

LD2904114391 London KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (KUNA)—Today Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister received Egyptian Housing Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, who is currently visiting Kuwait. KUNA learned that the meeting discussed bilateral relations and Egypt's readiness to provide Egyptian expertise in various fields, particularly in combating oil fires.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah also received the Japanese deputy foreign minister, accompanied by the Japanese ambassador to Kuwait. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, and Kuwait expressed its gratitude for the Japanese contribution of sending mine sweepers to clear Kuwaiti shores. An invitation has been addressed to the Japanese foreign minister to visit the State of Kuwait.

#### Saudi Arabia

#### Fahd's Position on Gulf, Peace Talks Viewed

LD2904201591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 29 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the meeting that the Saudi Council of Ministers held in Jeddah this afternoon.

After the meeting, Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: The Council of Ministers made a quick review of the most important political, security, and economic events and developments in the Arab region in light of international attitudes toward the conditions in the Arab Gulf following the liberation of fraternal Kuwait and the return of its legitimacy.

Afterwards, King Fahd acquainted the Council of Ministers with the outcome of his talks and meetings last week with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the delegations accompanying them, pointing out the established stands of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom toward the issues discussed during these meetings.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: In this respect, he spoke to the Council of Ministers about the military, political, and moral gains the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has achieved with the help of God Almighty and thanks to the honorable stands it adopted during the Gulf events.

King Fahd said that the Kingdom acquired a special and distinguished weight in the international arena. By its adherence to the Islamic faith, its steadfastness in tribulations, and true stances, it won the respect of all the world countries, which rushed to its call to send troops to support our Armed Forces in their duty of defending the homeland, protecting its citizens, safeguarding its resources, and repelling the injustice and aggression that Kuwait suffered at the hands of the Iraqi ruler. [passage omitted]

King Fahd added: Thanks to God and with His help, we have achieved our objectives, including the repelling of the treacherous aggression and the thwarting of the designs the Iraqi ruler wanted to implement. We have crowned all these achievements with the liberation of Kuwait, refuted with our deeds the biased rumors spread by the skeptical and rancorous to create confusion, and

faced up to the challenges, depending on God Almighty and on good intentions and sound decisions, which we adopted at the right moment, as there was no time for consultations and exchange of views at that time. [passage omitted]

King Fahd said: Perhaps Saddam Husayn expected the kingdom to take a stand different from the one it took toward Kuwait, and forgot that it is not in the nature of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to commit acts of treachery and betrayal. He has realized this rather late.

He added: Some might feel that the money we spent for what has been achieved in the Gulf through Desert Storm might be excessive, but I wish to affirm that the results we have achieved in terms of the establishment of security, the routing of oppression, and the entrenchment of international legitimacy exceed by far what we have spent in this regard, thanks be to God. [passage omitted]

The information minister said after that King Fahd talked about his aspirations with regard to providing more competence to the Saudi Armed Forces in all its sections, strengthening their potential, and multiplying the reserves of human resources and technical potentialities in a way that serves the needs of the kingdom to defend its citizens, its territory, and its resources.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: With regard to the reports of Western media on the stance of the kingdom toward talks taking place on the establishment of peace in the region on the basis of finding suitable solutions to the Palestinian issue, King Fahd affirmed the stance of the kingdom backing any decision by the Palestinians that they see is in the interest of their cause and that achieves their legitimate demands, which are based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

#### **Palestinian Faction Leader Praises Saudis**

*LD3004092291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] The secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Corrective Movement [al-Harakat al-Tashihiyah al-Sha'biyah al-Filastiniyah], Major General 'Atallah 'Atallah Abu-al-Za'im has praised the stands of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in serving the Palestinian cause. He

said that at no time did the kingdom fail to bolster the Palestine cause politically, morally, and materially.

In a statement before the General Council of the Movement, which comprises thousands of Palestinians, he said that at no time at all could the Palestinian people deny the support the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has offered from the reign of the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud until the reign of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, which was represented in the bolstering of the Palestine cause politically before all the international quarters, in addition to the billions of dollars the Saudi officials and popular quarters offered to bolster the Palestinian struggle inside and outside the occupied territories.

He also praised the political stands taken by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom affirming that these stands enjoy all respect and appreciation.

#### **CSFR Delegation Negotiates Unit Withdrawal**

*LD3004091291 Prague CTK in English 0632 GMT 30 Apr 91*

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Riyadh April 30 (CTK)—"The timetable of the withdrawal of our anti-chemical unit and cooperation between our armies are on the agenda of our talks with Saudi Army officials," a senior official of the Czechoslovak Defence Ministry has told the CTK correspondent here.

General Jiri Jindra, chief of the Czechoslovak Defence Ministry Foreign Relations Administration, said contacts are to be established also between Czechoslovak industrial and trade circles and their Saudi partners.

Possible Czechoslovak supplies of large-calibre artillery ammunition and fire extinguishers for tanks are also to be discussed.

Representatives of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry will discuss with their Saudi partners the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The Czechoslovak military delegation arrived in Riyadh yesterday.

**Parliament Speaker Says RCC To Be 'Annulled'***NC3004095291 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT  
30 Apr 91*

[Text] Baghdad, April 30 (AFP)—The ruling Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] will be "annulled" once the democratic process is underway in Iraq, parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said Tuesday.

"The new Constitution makes no mention of this council among the country's institutions, which means its role will end as soon as the people approve the Constitution," Mr. Salih told Agence France-Presse in an interview here.

The Iraqi official said that the Constitution, which was drafted and finalized in July 1990, will be "very soon submitted to the people in a referendum for their approval".

**RCC Grants Kurds 'Full Amnesty' From Riot Acts***JN2904205891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2032 GMT  
29 Apr 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has passed a decree granting Iraqi Kurds a general and full amnesty and exempting them from legal prosecution for any act punishable by law committed during the riots, excluding premeditated murder and rape. The provisions of this decree shall be valid for one month as of 26 April 1991 and applies to those inside and outside Iraq.

The decree states the following: In order to give the children of our Kurdish people who have been prevented by circumstances arising from aggression and interference by foreign forces from availing themselves of the chance of earlier amnesty decisions to return to their villages, cities, and domiciles, and based on the provisions of Item A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided:

First, Iraqi Kurds are fully exempt from any legal prosecution for any act punishable by law committed during the riots, excluding premeditated murder and rape.

Second, the provisions of this decree shall be valid for one month as of 26 April 1991 and apply to those inside and outside Iraq.

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette, and competent ministries and authorities are to implement it.

**Minister on French, UK Attitude Toward Kurds***JN2904193391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic  
1806 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Recent reports say that France has asked for a consultation session by the five UN Security Council permanent members to discuss the situation in Iraq after the talks between the Iraqi authorities and representatives of the Kurdish movements, so that international

guarantees can be provided for the agreement between the Iraqi Government and representatives of the Kurdish movements.

Commenting on these reports, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi stated the following: We are surprised at this further blatant interference in our domestic affairs and we denounce it. This flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international norms will have serious results in terms of world peace and security. It has never happened in the history of the United Nations, or that of the UN Security Council that an agreement between the government of any country in the world and the opposition in that country has been discussed by the UN Security Council or by the United Nations with the purpose of putting in place guarantees for them to implement the agreement. In such cases, one relies on the commitments of each of the two parties; the government and the opposition, and on which one pins one's hopes. This is because it concerns the domestic affairs of that country.

The culture and information minister said: We believe the Western countries want to take this step as a cover for another great evil act against Iraq. They will also use this in the future as a precedent for interfering in the affairs of other countries in the world. This new conspiracy should be denounced and foiled.

Reacting to British efforts to install an international police force in the north of the country on the model of Cyprus in 1974, the minister of culture and information said the Cyprus experience was different from what has happened in northern Iraq and that Britain and France's aim is to obstruct the dialogue between the Iraqi Government and the representatives of Kurdish movements.

The British-French nervousness arose when the French and the British learned of the dialogue. They took a hostile position against it and went around instigating other British-based Kurdish opposition parties to speak out against dialogue, and subsequently to continue to heighten the suffering of our Kurdish people in the north of the country, as Britain and France do not want stability for the Kurds.

The minister of culture and information added that the dialogue between the Iraqi Government and representatives of the Kurdish movements has come a long way, their mutual confidence has grown, and, we hope, will yield fruitful results shortly to consolidate the unity of Iraq and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and put the past behind us and turn over a bright new leaf in the lives of the Iraqi people.

**Barzani Comments on Kurds' Fight Against Saddam***LD2704075891 Hamburg DPA in German 2343 GMT  
26 Apr 91*

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani has doubts about Saddam Husayn's peace offer to the Kurds. The son of the legendary fighter against Baghdad said in an interview with the Bonn daily DIE WELT (Saturday

edition) that Barzani's guerrilla units will fight "until there is a political solution." The "gentleman's agreement on the cease-fire" (with the Kurds) would not "prevent Saddam from shooting," Barzani said by way of explaining his skepticism.

Barzani's guerrilla units under the commanders Kosrat and Hamid Effendi brought Saddam's war machine to a standstill in two battles lasting three and 10 hours. Barzani would not comment on his own losses as this came under "military secrecy." Barzani added that he had learned that in Arbil the Iraqi secret police are knocking on doors at night and asking the few people who remained behind which family members had fled and who had worked with the guerrillas. This was supposed to intimidate the Kurds and generate fear, said Barzani.

In the interview Barzani thanked the Western countries for their humanitarian aid, but complained that the deliveries so far only met 10-15 percent of daily needs. "We hope that the refugee aid will be continued," said Barzani, "but we also need a political solution for Kurdistan. Only when this is found will the refugee problem be solved. Humanitarian aid alone means nothing at all to us in political terms."

This interview was prereleased to DPA.

#### **Memo to UN Protests More U.S.-Saudi Air Activity**

JN2904171191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1646 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 29 Apr (INA)—U.S. and Saudi aircraft have flown 96 sorties in 47 formations and two individual sorties over Iraqi territory.

This came in a memorandum sent by Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning U.S. and Saudi overflights.

The memorandum featured the following information:

1. The Americans and Saudis 27-28 April 1991 flew 96 sorties in 47 formations and two individual sorties.
2. The aircraft flew at 600-720 kms per hour at altitudes ranging between 3 and 11 kms.
3. The aircraft were identified as F-15's and F-14's flying mainly over Baghdad, al-Kut, al-Suwayrah, al-Hashimiyah, al-Najaf, al-Ramadi, Tikrit, Khanqin, Samarra, al-Qayyarah, and Mosul, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation.

INA's correspondent in New York reported that Iraq's representative requested that the memo be circulated as a Security Council document.

#### **Memo to on Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations'**

JN2904184791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 29 Apr (INA)—Iran has continued to commit serious violations of the cease-fire agreement

with Iraq and has continued to intervene blatantly in Iraq's domestic affairs. This came in a memorandum submitted by Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations to the UN secretary general. The memorandum states:

1. The Iranian authorities have set up camps for the so-called repentant [al-tawwabin] POW's and the al-Da'wah Party, which is an agent of Iran, in the area of Sonqor, 25 km from the city of Bakhtaran in the direction of the Iraqi-Iranian border, and also in Khosravi, so that they can move from there into Iraqi territory. A group of 80 people arrived in these areas under the command of Staff Colonel Nizar Sahib, one of the repentant POW's, armed with machine guns and rocket launchers.

2. The Iranian authorities have taken measures to force those who were deported from Iraq to volunteer and move to the border, including:

- a. The issuing of ration cards for those deportees has been postponed indefinitely.
- b. Handouts of money ranging between 30,000 and 80,000 riyals were given to those deportees. Married volunteers were given housing allowances.
- c. On 15 March, Iranian Television aired a film on the city of Karbala' showing that the domes of the al-Husayn and al-'Abbas shrines were damaged, so as to incite those people against Iraq.
- d. The so-called Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq issued orders appointing the so-called Hasan Fadlallah governor of al-Basrah and the so-called al-Shaykh al-Sumari governor of al-Nasiriyah.

3. The Iranian regime organized a group of about 35 terrorists and brought in another group that was trained in Syria and active in Lebanon. The groups left the Iranian town of Qom on 16 March in order to enter Iraq with the aim of eliminating party and government officials.

4. The culprit 'Ata Jaryan Luftah al-Badri, an Iraqi POW who was held by Iran and who joined the so-called repentants, was arrested. He confessed that he was ordered by the military officials in the command of the Iranian 9th Division—Badr—to enter Iraqi territory through Khanaqin to carry out acts of sabotage in Iraq.

This evidence and information confirms that the Iranian Government is continuing its flagrant violation of the clauses of the cease-fire agreement between the two countries and its blatant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Iraq has held the Iranian Government fully responsible for these acts and their consequences.

Iraq's permanent envoy at the United Nations asked that this letter be circulated as an official UN Security Council document.

**Further on 'Infringements'**

JN2904172791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 29 Apr (INA)—Iraq has notified the United Nations that Iran installed a new post inside Iraqi territory south of the Qal'at Lam police station in the central sector, and has manned it with six Iranian soldiers.

This came in a memorandum sent by the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar containing fresh facts about Iran's violations of the Iraq-Iran cease-fire provisions.

The memorandum stated the following facts:

1. On 23 April 1991 at 1550 the Iranians installed a new post inside Iraqi territory south of the Qal'at Lam police station in the central sector and manned it with six Iranian soldiers.
2. On 25 April 1991 at 1000 the Iranians shelled forward Iraqi units in the al-Harithah area in the southern sector with 82-mm mortars.
3. From 0800 to 0900 on 26 April 1991 the Iranians shelled forward Iraqi positions in al-Harithah, al-Basrah Governorate, with mortars and heavy artillery from deep inside Iran.

These repeated Iranian infringements are a flagrant violation of the cease-fire between the two countries and underscore a deliberate effort by the Iranian Government to compromise Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Iraq holds the Iranian Government fully responsible for the damages caused by these infringements.

**Ramadan Urges Arabs To Foil 'Conspiracies'**

JN2904150591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic  
1400 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, today received two delegations from the national committee of Tunisian lawyers and the Tunisian society for practicing lawyers.

During the meeting, the vice president asserted that there is a state of upsurge in every Arab spot and that anyone who thinks it to be transient is mistaken. He added that faith in principles should be present all the time and we should stick to this faith and work to consolidate it, no matter how long it takes. The vice president also said that we should provide all requirements for a better performance. He added that the principles for which we have struggled have been remarkably achieved. This has been manifested in the unification of the Arab people in one trench because our goals and path are the same. The vice president of the Republic called on conscious and educated segments in the Arab nation to shoulder their responsibility to foil conspiracies against the nation, whether from a fifth column or from hostile media trying to mislead the Arab people. [passage omitted]

**'Aziz Returns From Tour of Arab States 29 Apr**

JN2904181291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1801 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today returned to Baghdad following a tour of Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Algeria.

He had given letters from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the heads of state of these countries.

He also held talks with their officials on bilateral ties and the latest Mideast developments.

**Cabinet Raises Cereal Prices, Awards Saddam**

JN2904144391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic  
1400 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] The Cabinet has unanimously decided to bestow the al-Rafidayn necklace upon leader President Saddam Husayn in recognition of his noble services to Iraq and the Arab nation. The decision was made at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told INA following the meeting that the decision was based on Article 3 of the al-Rafidayn necklace legislation in appreciation of the unique and historic role of his excellency the president, his noble services to Iraq, and the way he has lifted Iraq in terms of values and development to effective action in the life of the people and the nation.

Mr. Hammadi noted that the Council of Ministers heard the report of the committee in charge of crops and cereal marketing. The Cabinet also decided to raise the purchasing price of first grade wheat from 600 dinars to 800 dinars per tonne, and the price of barley from 250 and 480 dinars to 700 dinars per tonne with a view to giving incentives to peasants and farmers to cultivate more land.

The Cabinet decided to raise the price of white and black barley from 250 dinars to 500 dinars per tonne. The culture and information minister added that the Cabinet discussed amendments to a number of resolutions of the Revolution Command Council and to some bills, and decided to submit them to the Presidential Office to look into making them into law, including the worker union organization and the establishment of the Baghdad stock exchange.

**Refugee Reports Army Missile Strikes on Karbala'**

LD2904110391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic  
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] The battle of the Iraqi popular forces against the Ba'thist regime's forces has intensified in recent days in the towns of Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Basrah. According to the Central News Unit, a group of Iraqi refugees who recently arrived in our country announced this fact and said the attacks of popular forces on Ba'thist

forces mostly occur at night, and that Ba'athist forces have sustained crushing blows.

One of the refugees, who introduced himself as an electrical engineer and a resident of Karbala', said the Iraqi regime's Army launched 11 missiles on the town of Karbala' causing tragic deaths. This Iraqi refugee condemned the presence of the U.S. and Britain in Iraq and called on them to leave Iraq and not to meddle in the destiny of their people and country.

#### **City Reportedly Sealed by Iraqi Troops**

LD2904211191 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Iraqi refugees who arrived in Iran yesterday reported that the Iraqi Government has Karbala' under strict control and still prevents pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him.

According to a Central News Unit report quoting these sources, Karbala' is still without water and electricity and all but a few shops are closed. Many people have left the town and civilian traffic is scarcely seen.

According to those sources, except for the inhabitants of Karbala', soldiers, and the drivers transporting the soldiers, no one is allowed to enter the city.

#### **Rebel Radio on Attack Against Government Forces**

NC2904210491 *(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1916 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Hours after their broad offensive in al-Musharrah on Sunday, 28 April, the fighters of our popular revolution carried out a new attack against several of the regime forces' positions between al-Kahla' and Qal'at Salih. Our correspondent reports that the attack was carried out on two fronts. Our revolutionaries opened fire on positions and then seized them after destroying them.

This new heroic attack left tens of dead in the ranks of the forces serving under the regime's banner. Our fighters also captured quantities of weapons and military equipment, including several mortars, RPG-7 [rocket-propelled grenade] launchers, medium- and light-caliber weapons, and communications equipment. Our correspondent adds that these weapons were left on the battlefield after the remnants of the regime's forces escaped.

#### **Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Visit to Syria Criticized**

JN3004084691 *Baghdad INA in Arabic 0658 GMT 30 Apr 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—In an article today, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that Iranian President

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Syria constitutes another chapter of devoting the two countries efforts to harm the Iraqi people, stab their sons, and obliterate the features of the pioneering Iraqi example of Arab and international relations.

The paper says: Before and during the eight years of the Iraq-Iran war, the Iranian and Syrian sides continued to tackle their differences in the name of a common issue between them; namely, the achievement of the objectives of the Iranian aggression. In the name of these objectives, coordination between them continued in the political field.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes: Following several chapters of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Damascus comes amid a ceremonial atmosphere that shows delight at what happened to Iraq and gloats over the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of a barbaric aggression in which more than 30 allied states participated.

In its article, the paper also notes the Saudi-Iranian [as received] talks during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Syria, and what they included in terms of reviewing the "fruits" of the joint stand adopted by the two countries during the aggression that is still continuing.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Iranian side, like the Syrian regime, did not hesitate to stab Iraq and aid the gangs of saboteurs that despoiled the Iraqis' blood and honor.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Damascus has taken place at a time when the flirtation and fond words with the U.S. escalated following James Baker's frequent visits to Damascus and Velayati's visit to Saudi Arabia.

#### **Rebels: National Security Situation Deteriorating**

NC2904212391 *(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1916 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Despite the regime's constant efforts to maintain control, the security situation continues to deteriorate in the majority of Iraqi cities. According to our correspondents in the governorates, the regime's henchmen voluntarily abandon their government posts and homes at night and go elsewhere out of fear of the revolutionaries' revenge. The reports speak of a series of rapid attacks which our revolutionaries carried out in al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Basrah, and Ba'qubah. Several of the regime's henchmen, including two senior Army officers, a senior security forces officer, and three mercenaries who attained judicial posts in an opportunist way were punished. So far we have not been provided with a list of their names.

**Shamir: Syria 'Main Difficulty' in Peace Talks**

TA2904193391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1900 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the main difficulty in promoting peace negotiations stems from Syria. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in a conversation with the secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, (Piero Pasino) [title and name as heard], Mr. Shamir said that Syria objects to a regional conference to be followed by direct negotiations between Israel and Arab countries. According to him, Syria insists on a UN-sponsored international conference.

The Italian guest expressed the view that the Arab countries should declare an end to the state of belligerency with Israel and to the economic boycott, while Israel should put an end to its settlement policy.

**Shamir Rejects UN Participation**

TA2904171091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1605 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] On leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister made a major effort to dismiss the reports of a crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Begin Shamir recording] That is not the first time that we have heard such reports. There have been reports of an impending crisis and rift hundreds of times. [end recording]

There is no reason to despair; the political effort continues, Shamir said. It was an illusion to think that there would not be difficulties. There have been difficulties in the past and there will be in the future, but when one witnesses the U.S. determination, then there is room for success.

Referring to the initial conference, Yitzhaq Shamir said, the intention is for the leaders of the United States and the USSR to call on the countries of the region to direct face-to-face negotiations. The Arab countries, of course, prefer a continuing international conference, but our position is to convene it and then immediately afterward to hold direct negotiations. Israel will oppose any role for the United Nations.

[Begin Shamir recording] In reference to the United Nations, we said from the start that the process should not be tied to it in any way. We must not forget that the Camp David accords, Israel's great political achievement, were achieved without UN participation, without European participation, and also without the participation of the USSR. That is a fact. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 29 April says that Mr. Shamir told Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen that "the problem of the

territories must not be discussed now, because it will be the subject for negotiations. We are certain that the land belongs to Israel, but nevertheless, we want to find the way to coexistence and peace. If somebody thinks that part of our land should be taken away, he is mistaken, Shamir said."]

Like in all recent meetings, there was a clash between the prime minister and the head of the opposition. Shim'on Peres said that Tzomet, Tehiya, and Moledet decide government policy and that the prime minister's policy will transfer U.S. support to the Arabs. He asked the prime minister if Israel has a defense policy at a time when missiles can land here even from a distance of 1,000 km. These remarks aroused the prime minister's ire. You know I cannot respond to you here in this forum; your only intention is to foment panic. There is a defense plan, there are warning systems, and whoever hints that there are not sabotages state security. Shamir asked Peres, who knows with whom you met when you left the meeting for a minute? Peres tried to respond, but Shamir raised his voice: Sit down, shut up, and do not bother me. The temperature was very high in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today.

**'Clash' With Levi**

TA3004135891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew  
30 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The clash between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi over the Israeli position on reconvening the peace conference continued yesterday at full blast.

Foreign Ministry sources flatly denied Shamir's remarks, in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, that Levi "agreed" that the conference should not be permitted to reconvene. The sources said that the prime minister changed his stand on the issue several times in the past few days: In consultations between Shamir, Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens last Wednesday, Shamir agreed to the formula that Israel "would consider favorably" reconvening the conference under certain conditions. On Friday, after the Baker-Levi meeting in which the foreign minister expressed that agreement, the prime minister—under pressure from Tehiya and Likud elements—went back on his word. At Sunday's Cabinet meeting Shamir again said that that was the agreed-upon stand, while yesterday in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee he again changed his mind and decided unequivocally that it would not be reconvened.

"The prime minister is playing around with all of us," the sources said. They said that Levi, unlike Shamir, does not plan to deviate from the positions he told Baker on Friday. Levi, they said, promised Baker that he would not contradict himself and he plans to stand by that promise.

### Levi: U.S. Must Demand Arabs End State of War

TA3004105991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1005 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi conferred this morning with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and with the secretary general of the leftist Italian Democratic Party. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports from the studio:

Patrick Leahy, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is one of the most prominent U.S. senators. Levi told him: The United States cannot be just a peace broker in the Middle East; there have been other mediation efforts in the past, but they all failed. The United States must act as if it has a direct interest in the region, because as part of its ceaseless efforts to prevent wars in the world it is in its interest that the Gulf war should be the last war. Moreover, the United States is currently the only country that is able and obliged—due to its status as the leading superpower in the Middle East—to demand from the Arabs the termination of the state of war with Israel.

Foreign Minister Levi added: The United States should not describe the difficulties in budging the process as being the result of intransigence on both sides. Such a balance is artificial and does not exist in reality. Israel wants to hold direct negotiations, while the Arabs refuse to do that. Also, the United States should not refer to the settlements as being an obstacle to peace. After all, the Green Line has never been a borderline but a cease-fire line. The territories of Judea and Samaria have never been sovereign. Their annexation by Jordan for 19 years had never been granted international recognition. Consequently, the right of Jews to live and settle there is no less than that of the Arabs. Unfortunately, Foreign Minister Levi said, the world's attitude toward this fact is: We cannot be bothered with the facts. The minister ended his remarks by saying he hoped the process would be pursued.

Addressing the left-wing Italian Democratic Party's secretary general, the foreign minister said that the absence of democracy in the Arab countries had brought to power leaders who advocate expansionism. They are afraid of democracy because this would hinder their authority. They sell their expansionist dreams as opium to the masses, and Syria is a good example, Foreign Minister Levi asserted.

### Arens Urges Mubarak-Shamir Meeting

TA3004122291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that relations between Israel and Egypt have cooled down recently and perhaps even deteriorated, which makes progress in the peace process difficult. If commercial and tourism relations do not develop, it is not clear what will be the fate of the peace with Egypt, he said.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Minister Arens, addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that Hosni Mubarak must meet Shamir, even if they do not agree on every issue.

### Gush Emunim Trying To Set Up Two Settlements

TA3004075691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew  
30 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Mikhel Sela]

[Excerpt] Gush Emunim is currently trying to set up more settlements not officially authorized by the government as part of its political intention to create facts on the ground in order to foil any intention to give up parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. DAVAR has learned.

Among the planned settlements are Qatzif, on the eastern part of the Samarian hills, and Gilgalit. Settlement sources said that they would like to set up more settlements but that they would not do so immediately.

Final approval of the sites is apparently the only thing holding up the settlements. Settlements to be set up in the near future are not receiving the official blessing of the Settlement Department of the World Zionist Federation but are being carried out with the knowledge of Mattityahu Drobless, the Likud head of the department. DAVAR has learned.

Under settlement regulations, all nonurban settlements require the approval of the Settlement Department. [passage omitted]

### Baker Said Pushing UN Role To Please 'Arafat

TA3004093491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew  
30 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The PLO is prepared to give the green light to the participation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in a planned peace conference, but on condition that the United Nations and Europe are given senior status in the conference alongside the United States and the USSR, according to reports reaching Jerusalem in recent days.

Israeli political sources are concerned that Baker's pressure to incorporate a UN observer in talks was aimed at pleasing 'Arafat so that he would permit the Palestinians in the territories to start the process.

In Jerusalem it is believed that Baker will conduct an additional round of talks within two weeks, but there is no certainty he will come. [passage omitted]

**Levi Said To Face Tough Job Convincing Cabinet***TA2804140091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew  
28 Apr 91 p B1*

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Baker's Requiem"]

[Text] It is not only time that works in Yitzhaq Shamir's favor. After Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat took the Americans to faraway places and Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach drove Shim'on Peres into the opposition, divine intervention helped him get rid of that nudnick, James Baker. It would be interesting to know what James Baker would have told the press had the phone call about his mother's death not cut short his meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir and canceled his talk with Moshe Arens. How would he have updated his briefing to Bush earlier that morning, which had been based on Foreign Minister David Levi's expressions of flexibility? Shamir's intransigent position in the three hours spent with Baker discussing only one issue—the duration of the peace conference—made Baker's semioptimistic diagnosis to the press that same morning in the Foreign Ministry's front yard look almost ridiculous. A force majeure, however, delivered Shamir from that impolite man.

When he comes out of mourning and meets his friend George Bush, Baker may very well repeat the hand-washing gesture with which, on the eve of his last visit to Jerusalem, he described to a U.S. journalist what he would do if his "window of opportunity" were this time, too, covered with a tight mesh. He will most probably be back within a week to wind up his talk with Shamir, so that nobody can say that he did not let Israel finish presenting its arguments. If by then Levi fails to muster support in the government and the party, Baker will no longer pester us with all sorts of bizarre conferences. If public opinion remains apathetic in the face of the foiling of yet another chance to prevent the next war, Shamir will no longer have use Mikha'el Deqel for cover and will be able to go back to cutting ribbons for new settlements. Arens will put Faysal al-Husayni and Radwan Abu-Ayyash back where they belong (in jail), while Yuval Ne'eman will be able to relax and resume his trips around the world.

Arens' public comments and the briefings issued by Shamir's office, as well as Beni Begin's reaction and Dan Meridor's silence, show that Levi will have a tougher job this time than at the end of Baker's first visit. At that time he managed to drag his colleagues to the one-time encounter under the auspices of the two superpowers and to force Shamir to go back on his opposition to a separate Palestinian delegation. The fourth anniversary of Arens' call on George Shultz that resulted in the eradication of the London agreement that had been meant to bring about talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under the auspices of a non-coercive conference is being marked these days. The model currently suggested by Levi is too similar to the April 1987 model. As Yuval Ne'eman stated in a radio interview, only the Chinese are missing for the two to be identical (which is a shame seeing that they are one of the

Arab countries' largest arms suppliers, and that Israel may have benefited from their inclusion in the process).

Israel's situation may not be better even if the Levi-Baker agreements are endorsed. Even if the Cabinet is persuaded that the inclusion of a powerless UN observer is nothing compared to sharing the blame with Syria (which agreed to a noncoercive conference without the PLO, but insists that it should not be called "regional" and that the United Nations be assigned a role in it), the conference will run aground over the question of Jerusalem. At least five ministers are prepared to embrace the dual-residence formula to overcome that obstacle, but they only voice that view in "off-the-record" talks. No top Likud leader is today willing to step forth, challenge conventions, and risk having to face derogatory graffiti on his front door. They prefer to let Israelis run the risk entailed in the grave repercussions of shutting the window to peace. Optimists among them expect Bush to tell "Israel's friends in Congress" that despite his goodwill, charity begins at home—and he has a lot of charity to do at home. Pessimists take seriously the threat that the United States may throw Israel to the dogs of Europe and the United Nations. They will yet miss James Baker, just as today they reminisce about George Shultz, who failed many times at their hand.

Shultz thought that by allowing a U.S. dialogue with the PLO he would be punishing Shamir, but that was not so. Yasir 'Arafat is the best constraint Shamir has. He need only stick it out for another month or two and deport a few moderate leaders from the territories so that other foreign statesmen follow in French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' footsteps and put the PLO-Tunis back in the picture. With those guys, as is known, there is nothing to talk about. That will spell the end of the "self-government" the inhabitants of the territories are prepared to discuss now, as a prologue to the land-for-peace deal. Such a deal, the 76-year-old Shamir has said, would be made only over his dead body. But what about us?

**Commentary: Syria Scuttling Peace Efforts***TA2604160191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew  
26 Apr 91 p A14*

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Barrier in Damascus"]

[Excerpt] The initiative to hold a regional encounter to promote Israeli-Arab negotiations was not sabotaged this week. Its fate was determined at the height of the U.S. military success when Washington prevented Israel from taking action against the missiles in **western Iraq**, while it gave Syria the go-ahead to allow Jalal Talabani's convoy to cross the border on its way to take over the Kurdish towns in **northern Iraq**. The United States accepted Syria's conditions for staying in the coalition, which were: not using Syria's airspace in the war for the liberation of Kuwait; preventing Israel's participation in the war against Iraq.

Two U.S. mistakes in the war determined the fate of the peace initiative:

1. Syria would not have quit the coalition even if Israel had operated against the Iraqi missiles. The United States was aware that Israel knew about the 800 underground revetments housing the Scud missiles. It chose, however, to allay Israel by telling it that most of the launchers had been destroyed, as it were, so as to avert a political confrontation with the Syrians, who had been threatening to quit the coalition. Washington gave in to Damascus' false threat.

2. The United States gave Syria the go-ahead to let Talabani cross the border, amid triumphant fanfare, on his way to take over the Kurdish towns in northern Iraq. This was a cruel and irresponsible move toward millions of helpless Kurds itching to confront the Iraqi Army, which was equipped with helicopters and tanks. Mula Mustafa Barzani, the late Kurdish rebel leader, learned from the Israelis not to confront the Iraqi Army head on. That is why he waged his rebellion in the mountains, where the Iraqi tanks had no access. His rival, Jalal Talabani, did not follow in his footsteps. He did not go to the mountains, but chose the towns in the plains, thus pushing his people to the edge of a precipice, to a horrendous human tragedy. The Bush Administration is now trying to atone for the sins of Damascus, which incited the Kurds to rebel, by extending ample aid to the refugees. For their part, the Syrians abandoned the Kurds to their fate as if the belligerent statements about Talabani's "military victories" had not originated in Damascus.

The Syrians emerged from the war as great winners. Although their 10,000-man contingent in Saudi Arabia did not see combat, they nevertheless received \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia, half of which they used to purchase vast quantities of weapons from the Soviet Union. They had hoped that Talabani would create a territorial bridge to their Iranian ally, which would have posed a threat to Israel, but their scheme failed. Talabani deserted the rebels yet once again. In the past he denounced the ties between Barzani and Israel; this week he kissed and signed an agreement with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

What the Syrians learned from this episode is that the Bush Administration can be manipulated. Nine hours of talks with al-Asad did not help Baker budge the former's opposition to a regional encounter with Israel.

Al-Asad had voiced his opposition to regional cooperation with Israel as early as in the days of Operation Desert Storm. He managed to squeeze from the United States a promise to forestall an Israeli operation in Iraq, even in the face of the provocations posed by the Scuds. Al-Asad was adamant in his threats to quit the coalition so as to deprive Israel of even a semblance of regional cooperation. In fact, he would not have quit, because he did not want to give up the perks promised him by the coalition. But it worked: The United States was deterred and held Israel in check.

From this achievement al-Asad learned a lesson that he used this week in his lengthy talk with James Baker. He

rejected all proposals to include Israel in any regional alignment. [passage omitted]

#### **Likud MK Said on 'Secret Mission' for Shamir**

TA3004094291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew  
30 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Menahem Rahat, Tzvi Lavi, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin-Ze'ev Begin's trip to the United States Sunday has aroused a wave of speculation throughout the political system about a secret mission for the prime minister.

Senior Likud officials claim that it is a routine trip and that at most he will meet with congressmen, but not with senior administration officials.

The Likud Knesset faction confirmed only the fact of the trip but denied that Begin was on any mission. The explanation given: MK Begin is to deliver a lecture to have been given by Minister Dan Meridor who cannot leave the country.

The prime minister's bureau also denied the rumors while Minister Meridor confirmed that Begin was asked to replace him at the Washington Institute.

Another reason for the high interest aroused by the trip is Meridor's trip to the United States three weeks ago, allegedly to address the Anti-Defamation League. In retrospect, it appears that was only a cover for secret talks with Dennis Ross, Baker's adviser. Meridor's close associates said that the minister canceled the trip to prevent a new wave of rumors.

#### **No-Confidence Motion Defeated 44 to 33**

TA2904191991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network  
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpt] With a majority of 44 votes to 33, the Knesset tonight defeated the motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the opposition. The Alignment, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, and the Progressive List for Peace had proposed no confidence in the government against the backdrop of the political moves, the settlements, and the failure of immigrant absorption.

Minister Roni Milo responded on behalf of the government. [passage omitted]

#### **Milo Defends Government**

TA3004112091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST  
in English 30 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] Israel believed the Arabs were ready to make concessions after the Gulf War, but has found the U.S.

demanding more and more of Israel instead. Police Minister Roni Milo told the Knesset yesterday.

Milo defended the government against no-confidence motions from six opposition parties. They attacked the government over the peace talks, settlement policy, the absorption process and unemployment. After a four-hour debate, the motions were defeated 44-33.

At the end of the third round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, a "different picture" has emerged, Milo said. "We thought these talks would lead to flexibility on the part of the Arabs. We thought they would be ready to make compromises for the sake of the diplomatic process. What we have found instead is that the demands made on us have continuously increased.

"In truth, Baker has not disclosed to us the positions taken by the Arab side. However, from the increasing demands made on us for unilateral concessions, it is obvious that the other side has demonstrated inflexibility, so they want the concessions to come from us."

Milo said Israel was not prepared to endanger its vital interests; therefore, it would not agree to participate in an international conference. "An international conference is a threat to Israel—especially if it is sponsored by the UN. We know the UN's stand."

He added that Israel was not being needlessly intransigent by refusing to negotiate with Palestinians from East Jerusalem. "(Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger) said clearly that were Israel to agree to include Jerusalem in the autonomy negotiations, it would be sealing the fate of the city. If we agree to representatives from East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation, we will ourselves have endangered the status of unified Jerusalem."

Labor leader Shim'on Peres charged that the government was run by "less than 20 MK [Knesset members] from the extreme right wing of the political map... What the deputy science minister says counts for more than the foreign minister. Thus, the foreign minister promises one thing to the U.S., while the prime minister promises something else to Tehiya."

Peres charged that the government was failing on both parts of its two-track negotiating course. He said it could not reach agreement on a Palestinian delegation because it would talk "only with Palestinians who haven't been born or Palestinians who support the Likud positions; in other words, with Palestinians who don't exist."

As for progress with the Arab states, Peres said Saudi Arabia had dropped out of the peace process, but Israel was stuck with a regional conference, in fact another name for an international conference.

Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] said the government's settlement policy threatened the Palestinians. "Every home or caravan that goes up is a harsh declaration: 'You Palestinians

have no place here; if we want, we will expropriate; if we want, we will push you out.'"

Hayim Oron (Mapam) [United Workers Party] said the present situation offered an excellent chance for peace. "But what does the government do in its deceptive way? It establishes settlements while acting as if it doesn't know what's going on."

Amnon Rubinstein (Shinuy) said the two tasks which Israel must accomplish to assure its survival are absorbing the immigrants and making peace. "Only those completely detached from reality on the fringes of the disturbed right can believe that Israel will be able to absorb the large number of immigrants without making progress towards peace and facing total isolation in the West."

#### Left-Wing Parties Form Bloc for Next Elections

TA2804103991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English  
1000 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Three left-wing parties, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy are on the way to forming a unified bloc for the next Knesset elections. Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni, the chairperson of CRM, told reporter Lea Zinder this morning she prefers not calling it the left-wing camp. [passage omitted]

#### Italian Communist Officials Visit

TA2904100991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST  
in English 29 Apr 91 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Text] Tel-Aviv - Achille Occhetto, secretary-general of Italy's Democratic Party of the Left (formerly known as the Communist Party), arrived here yesterday with a party delegation as guests of the Center for Peace, hosted by Faysal al-Husayni.

"We have come for a close-up view of the Middle East situation," Occhetto told an audience at Tzavta last night, "at a time of renewed, intensive, diplomatic activity towards the opening of negotiations."

The Italian communists arrived from Egypt, where they held meetings with various officials, and intend to continue to Jordan and meet with King Husayn. They also plan to visit other countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Occhetto, "to overcome obstacles and prejudices which have not made it possible so far to convene a peace conference."

#### Occhetto, Peres, Skeptical on Conference

AU2904144491 Rome ANSA in English 1032 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] ANSA, Tel Aviv, April 29—Achille Occhetto, Secretary of Italy's Democratic Left Party, continued his

Mideast "dialogue mission" Sunday [28 April], with talks in Tel Aviv with Israel's opposition Labor Party leader Shimon Peres.

Occhetto began his nine-day mission in Cairo April 26, and will visit the occupied territories before travelling on to Jordan.

In a press conference at the end of his lengthy meeting with Peres, Occhetto said that "we wished to make clear that we are united in believing that Israel is not represented by the current government alone, but that a large progressive section for which peace in the region is of great concern, also exists."

"If the democratic forces in Europe, of which the Democratic Left Party is a part, wish to act together to unblock the situation and to help the current government to overcome certain elements of rigidity and narrow mindedness they must work to ensure that the country does not become politically isolated, in order not to bring about splits in public opinion and possible reactions of a nationalistic type," Occhetto told the press.

The Italian politician, in his talks with Peres, did not hide his worries over the intransigence shown by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, with whom Occhetto will confer during his stay, sources said. He will also meet with Foreign Minister David Levy and representatives of the Palestinian community.

Emerging from his meeting with Occhetto, Peres forecast that given the current situation, it is unlikely that Israel will reach agreement with the United States on calling a Middle East peace conference, a topic discussed in several recent visits to this country by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. "In the Israeli Government there are extremist elements and I doubt whether concrete steps forward can be taken," he said.

Peres reported substantial accord with his Italian visitor, but implied that one area where they had not agreed was that of who should represent the Palestinians in any conference. "For us," he said, "(Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief) Yassir 'Arafat remains the head of an organisation which uses terrorism, and by allying himself with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussayn during the Gulf War he lost all credibility."

On the list of Occhetto's priorities to be stressed during his tour is the Palestinians' right to choose their own representatives, including the PLO.

During his flight to Tel Aviv from Cairo, Occhetto informed journalists that Egyptian Foreign Office Minister of State Butrus Ghali, who is Deputy President of the Socialist Internationale, had promised to support the Democratic Left Party's bid to join that organisation.

#### **Danish Minister Arrives, Criticizes Settlements**

*TA2904042091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Denmark's foreign minister came to Israel yesterday and criticized the settlement policy. According to Minister Ellemann-Jensen, the decision to establish two new settlements now was a mistake. He emphasized that the principle of territory for peace could help the peace process.

#### **Comments on Peace Process, Settlements**

*TA2904110091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen speaks in English throughout]

[Text] Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen said that as an old friend of Israel, who admires the Israeli democracy, he feels that a democratic country such as Israel should be the one to take the first step in the negotiation process with the Arabs. Elleman-Jensen made these remarks following his meeting with President Herzog. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports:

[Begin recording] [Ayalon] Upon the conclusion of his meeting with Israeli President Hayim Herzog, Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen stated that Denmark is an old friend of Israel's, but, as a member of the EC, it is concerned with the economic future of the Middle East and therefore regards the signing of peace agreements as a means to guarantee the future of the region, which is a common interest of the EC, Israel, and the Arab countries. The minister asserted that Denmark will therefore play a mediatory role between the rival parties and try to sit them down together at the negotiating table in order to resolve the complicated problems that still remain.

[Ellemann-Jensen] We can only play the role of bringing parties together, because these very complex problems have to be solved by the directly involved parties themselves.

[Ayalon] Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen believes that the Gulf war created new opportunities to launch a peace process, but one of the parties must take the first step. As old friends of Israel, who admire its democracy, we believe that Israel must be the one to take the first step, he said.

[Ellemann-Jensen] And, being old friends of Israel, admiring the democratic system in Israel, we tend to believe that the best suited party to take a first step is a democracy.

[Ayalon] The Danish minister opined that the settlements only create problems, and this is not the right time to create problems now that there is some hope for a peace process.

[Ellemann-Jensen] We are strongly against the settlements. We have been all the time, and we believe that

this is not the right time to create problems when we have hope that a peace process might get started.

[Ayalon] After leaving the president's residence, the Danish foreign minister will meet with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi. The messages he will bring to these meetings will apparently not be very pleasant. [end recording]

### On 'Economic Reprisals,' Europe's Role

TA2904174591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English  
1700 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] As the Danish foreign minister arrived in Israel yesterday, official circles stressed the understanding which Denmark shows for Israel's concerns, in sharp contrast to the indifference and the cynical pro-Arab policies of France and Italy. But, listening to Uffe Ellemann-Jensen today, it was not so easy to tell the difference. True, Ellemann-Jensen did not go with Roland Dumas to meet Yasir 'Arafat after the Gulf war, nor has Denmark sold vast arsenals to Iraq. But, Denmark is firmly behind the Venice Declaration and its Madrid appendix, which all but called for a Palestinian state.

At his meetings with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi today, Ellemann-Jensen criticized Israel over the settlements, the issue of territories in exchange for peace, the closure of schools in the territories, the handling of the intifadah—you name it.

He also brought a message from the European foreign ministers calling for an active European role in the peace process, with more than a hint of possible economic reprisals should Israel fail to comply.

[Begin recording] [Ellemann-Jensen] If there's going to be future for the Middle East, you have to cooperate with Europe in economic developments; you have to cooperate with the international society; you have to follow international law. You simply cannot isolate yourselves from the outside world; it's so simple as that.

[Katzenell] Does that mean that, if Israel does not cooperate, then Europe will cut off aid to Israel and economic cooperation?

[Ellemann-Jensen] Well, I don't think this is the time to come with threats, but we are getting impatient in Europe, as elsewhere, and we want to see progress in the peace process. This impatience has to do with the position of Israel, as well as the position of the Arab countries. [end recording]

Asked why he seemed to be making more demands of Israel than the Arab side, Ellemann-Jensen said: Israel is a democratic country and must therefore make the first move in the peace process.

Labor leader Shim'on Peres has said that Europe's participation in the political process will be determined by its stand towards the PLO. Peres told the visiting Danish foreign minister that the Europeans do not adopt the same tough attitude vis-a-vis the PLO as the United States does, in particular regarding the Palestine Covenant and the need to abandon terror. Peres added that Europe adopts pro-Arab and pro-PLO stands, and this will have to stop.

### Levi Calls for Pressure on Arabs

TA3004044191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English  
0400 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has called on his Danish counterpart, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, to pressure the Arab states to make peace with Israel. Levi criticized the EC's political and economic policies in the region. The Danish foreign minister told Levi last night that he understands Israel's predicament and the danger Israel faces.

[Begin Ellemann-Jensen recording] The wish of the EC is certainly to play an active part, but it must be up to the parties directly involved to find their own solutions. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 30 April adds that in the meeting with the Danish minister, "Foreign Minister Levi rejected the theory that, being a democracy, Israel should make more concessions. The outcome of such a stand is that dictatorships benefit and are rewarded for their aggression."

[In a recorded passage, Levi says: "Our strive for peace is clear, solid, and genuine. The Arab world must call off the state of war with Israel, and enter direct negotiations with us. I told Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The refusal of the Arab countries to talk peace with Israel is almost unprecedented. Through the years it has become to be known as a normal attitude, although it is an anomaly. On the other hand, Israel's demand for negotiations without preconditions is seen as being extreme. How do you explain that? The Danish minister replied: That is definitely an anomaly."]

### Arens: Arabs Lack Incentive

TA3004105091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
1000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the main problem in the peace process at this stage is the fact that the majority of the Arab countries' leaders have no incentive to make peace with Israel. After the Gulf war, there was a feeling that the Arab countries that took part in the coalition against Iraq would turn over a new leaf in their relations with Israel. Now it becomes apparent that this is not happening. The Saudis have announced that they will not come to the regional meeting.

In a meeting with the Danish foreign minister, the defense minister said: The Arab leaders have not expressed their readiness to hold direct negotiations for peace with Israel, and them favoring an international conference stems from their desire to set up a forum in which they would not have to sit down and talk to Israel directly.

Minister Arens added: While at the onset of the current process, the issue discussed was a one-time meeting, after which there would be direct talks, and to which Israel agreed, currently the development is toward a repeated convening of the meeting. The issue now is how to turn this meeting into an international conference.

#### **PRC Foreign Ministry Official Visits**

TA2604075491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT  
in Hebrew 26 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] A very high-level Chinese Foreign Ministry official is currently in Israel as the guest of Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav.

Our political correspondent has learned that the Chinese official, the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry in Beijing, met here with various public personalities, but when we asked him about the visit last night, the Foreign Ministry's director general refused to confirm or deny it.

It seems the Chinese insisted on confidentiality as a precondition for the visit. [passage omitted]

Political sources said last night that they see the visit of the Chinese official to Israel as an additional step toward a possible upgrading of relations between Israel and the PRC.

A delegation of Israeli Knesset members [MK's] is currently in the PRC. [In a report on page 3 of the 26 April issue, in an unattributed report, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reports that one of the MK's is Yehoshu'a Matza of the Likud.]

#### **Gives Levi Letter on Rapprochement**

TA2704195991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network  
in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has written to Foreign Minister David Levi, expressing a desire for rapprochement between his country and Israel. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin. The letter was handed to the foreign minister by the Chinese Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for Middle East affairs, who was in Israel last week on the first visit of a senior Chinese diplomat to Jerusalem. The visit took place in the wake of a meeting between David Levi and Qian Qichen at the UN General Assembly last year and last month's visit to Beijing of Re'uven Merhav, the Foreign Ministry director general.

An Israeli scientific delegation, which includes several Israeli diplomats, operates in Beijing without any diplomatic status, and a Chinese tourism delegation has operated in Israel for the past year.

Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav refused this evening to comment on the report.

#### **Discusses Role in Mideast Arms Control**

TA2804082691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew  
28 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] In the message the foreign minister received, his PRC counterpart, Qian Qichen, praised Israel's restrained policy during the Gulf war and expressed his intention of working toward improving Israeli-Chinese relations.

The message was relayed to Levi by a senior Chinese Foreign Ministry official who conducted secret talks in Israel last week. It has been learned that a broad range of bilateral issues was discussed, including expanding operations of the Israeli academic mission in Beijing, and those of the Chinese tourism delegation here. Another issue was the possibility of Chinese participation in Middle East arms limitation talks.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 April in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on page 2, adds that in these talks, "Foreign Minister David Levi expressed the hope that Israeli-Chinese relations will continue to develop in the direction of the establishment of full diplomatic relations." Schiffer also reports that "political sources" said that the "Chinese guests" urged Israel not to "rush them with respect to full normalization of relations, because they want to pursue this at their own pace."]

#### **Shamir Closely Following Ethiopian Developments**

TA3004113091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1100 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel is closely following developments in Ethiopia and the situation of local Jews and is prepared to deal with problems in the event of internal changes or a crisis in that country. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Mr. Shamir made this statement while touring construction sites in Dimona and was awarded honorary citizenship of the city. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 30 April adds that during his tour Shamir was asked whether, as a result of what Washington termed the slim results of Baker's plan, the peace negotiations had reached a dead end, the prime minister replied: "I think we will not reach a dead end. I think that if the necessary determination persists, and all those involved pursue

their efforts and try to overcome the predicament obstacles, we will not reach a dead end and results will be attained."]

### **Bethlehem Curfew Imposed After Tourist Stabbed**

TA3004125691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
1230 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] A 70-year-old female tourist was stabbed to death this afternoon in Bethlehem. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the area and the security forces began searching for the assailant. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, is on the line from Bethlehem:

The stabbing took place a little after 1300 this afternoon. A group of French tourists were eating at a restaurant under the customs building in Bethlehem's Manger Square. One of the tourists, a woman approximately 70 years of age, got up to go to the restroom. The assailant saw her, followed her down, and stabbed her in the stomach. The other members of the group heard her screams and rushed to the restrooms. They found her there in a pool of blood. The tourist was taken to al-Husayn Hospital in Bethlehem, where she later died of her wounds.

The security sources began searching for the attacker, who fled the scene. Official IDF sources reported that the attacker has still not been captured.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj came to the site and denounced the murder. He stressed that this was the first murder in Manger Square since 1967. He called on the Palestinian leaders in the territories to condemn this crime.

### **Weekend Deaths, House Demolitions Reported**

TA2804110591

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 April, in a report by Jon Immanuel on page 10, says that "two alleged Israeli informers were slain over the weekend in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Ali Bidwan, 25, a photographer from the al-Burayj refugee camp, was shot Friday night in front of his home by masked men. Residents of the camp alleged that Bidwan had taken compromising photographs of young women and had been warned several times. It was alleged that he was an informer who blackmailed the women into working for him.

"Ahmad Hamdan, 25, from Bal'a, near Tulkarm, was found dead in an olive grove yesterday. Local Palestinians suspect that, despite allegations that he was an informer, he was not a known suspect.

"Meanwhile, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was reportedly injured, and, according to Palestinian sources, two children were shot and wounded in clashes with the IDF.

"During clashes with the IDF sparked by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Islamic activists in and around the Nabulus casbah Friday, Nidal Busi, 11, was

shot in the head by a live bullet and taken to Ramallah Hospital in serious condition, Palestinian sources said.

"The sources said in that in the 'Askar camp Rima 'Arafah, an 11-year-old girl, was shot by a live bullet in a clash with the IDF and taken to al-Itihad Hospital in moderate condition yesterday.

"Military sources confirmed that a youth was brought to Ramallah Hospital from the casbah in critical condition after being shot, but had no information concerning clashes there or in 'Askar. Palestinians said three others were reported lightly wounded in Nabulus.

"An army officer was injured in his hand by an explosive charge in Hebron yesterday. The charge was hidden in grass in 'Aharon Gross Square' in the middle of the city. At least 22 so-called informers have been killed in the last month."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 April, in a report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin on page A3, adds that "the IDF consequently imposed a curfew on Hebron and that wide-scale searches were launched." They also report that "a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in Gaza on Friday. It hit the military vehicle and ignited. The soldiers jumped off the vehicle and were unhurt. Military sources reported that slight damage was caused. A rise has been noted over the past few weeks in firebomb incidents in the Gaza Strip.

"Several clashes took place between the IDF and the locals in the Gaza Strip on Saturday [27 April]. A curfew was clamped in Rafah, which the IDF said stemmed from operational requirements. Palestinian sources reported that four people were injured over the weekend in Khan Yunus and Rafah during clashes with the IDF. Official Army sources claimed that no exceptional incidents were registered and that no injuries were admitted into the hospitals over the weekend."

Another report by Yizhar Be'er on the same page says that Betzelem, the information center on human rights in the territories, "reported yesterday that during the recent month of Ramadan the security forces demolished two houses and sealed off another seven, six of them in the West Bank. They belonged to people suspected of security offenses. Betzelem claimed that this was a break from the defense establishment's practice in previous years not to engage in such activity during Ramadan." Also, "since the beginning of the intifadah, 391 houses have been demolished, 217 of them in the West Bank and 175 in the Gaza Strip. Another 261 West Bank and 75 Gaza houses were boarded up during the same period." The 'Uvda information center in Hebron reported that "between January and March 1991 there were 104 stoning attacks on Dan buses that caused damage, and another 83 that caused no damage. During that same period, two firebombs were thrown at company buses and 17 incidents of blocking roads with rocks, burning tires, nails, or oil were registered."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 April, in a report by Michael Rotem on page 10, says that "a Gaza Palestinian who resides in Yafo was kidnapped Thursday from a cafe here, local Arab sources told THE JERUSALEM POST. A police spokesman confirmed that an investigation is under way." The sources said that Dhiyab Aliya, 34, "is suspected of being a collaborator with the Israeli authorities."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 28 April, in a report on page three by Mikhal Sela', says that "Li'or Uvshani, a recent Engineering Corps draftee, was sentenced this week to a second consecutive prison term for refusing to serve in the territories."

#### **Arabs Claim Areas To Be Annexed to Jerusalem**

TA2804090991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew  
28 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] Residents of Arab neighborhoods adjacent to Jerusalem contend that Civil Administration sources have reported the intention of altering the status of their ID cards even in the next few days.

They claim the intention behind this is to annex these areas to Jerusalem.

The locals have reported that notables from these areas have approached the Civil Administration with a request that more lenient measures be exercised in governing their entry into the city, and that in response they were told to draw up written requests by residents who want to be annexed to Jerusalem.

Involved are the neighborhoods of Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah, east of the city, as well as al-Ram, Dahiyat al-Barid, Bi'r Nabala, and al-Jib, northeast of it.

#### **New Jewish Neighborhood Planned in Old Jerusalem**

TA2804092091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR  
in Hebrew 28 Apr 91 p 6

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] A new Jewish neighborhood will soon be set up inside the Old City walls of Jerusalem, near Herod's

Gate. The homes will belong to the 'Ateret Kohanim yeshiva, which is located in the Muslim Quarter. The area is owned by the Israel Lands Administration.

KOL HA'IR, the Jerusalem weekly which disclosed this, notes that the land had been given to the Jerusalem municipality for the purpose of building a nursery there but that it had failed to do so. Now the Israel Lands Administration is applying pressure to obtain the requisite construction licenses applying in that area. Involved are approximately 50 housing units.

The 'Ateret Kohanim yeshiva and other associations dealing with populating the Muslim Quarter with Jews have recently enjoyed a windfall to the tune of millions of shekels transferred to them by the Jewish Quarter Development Corporation. 'Ateret Kohanim has recently received several shops for lease on Hashalshet Road in the Muslim Quarter through the urgings of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon.

#### **State Comptroller Accuses Paris Envoy of Fraud**

LD2804095191 Paris Domestic Service in French  
0900 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The Israeli Ambassador to France 'Ovadya Sofer has been accused of false accounting documentation by the Israeli state comptroller, Mrs. Miryam Ben-Porat. This is reported by collaborators of Mrs. Ben-Porat. 'Ovadya Sofer is reported to have used 20 percent of the budget allocated for information over the last three years to acquire the services of a public relations company to translate and edit his speeches. Reportedly, 36,000 francs were spent during the past three years without any documentation.

#### **Leaves for PRC Conference**

TA3004045591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English  
0400 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpt] State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat leaves this morning for an official visit to Beijing. She was invited to a congress of state comptrollers of the Asian countries being held in the Chinese capital.

In Jerusalem, extreme importance has been attached to the invitation, as few Asian countries have diplomatic ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

**London Paper 'Lacks Compassion' for Iraqis**

JN2904130591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English  
29 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Appalled at Apathy"]

[Text] A "report" in London's Observer newspaper that Iraq is secretly rearming itself and rebuilding its arms industry comes at a time [when] the whole world knows very well that the country is at pains to feed its own people, who are suffering from the devastating consequences of the allied war against it. Western doctors and relief officials have spoken volumes about the perilous water and food situation and the looming threat of epidemics in Baghdad and other cities and towns of Iraq, posing one of the major challenges to the entire international community, or at least to those who are pained to see the suffering of a people deprived of basic essentials in life.

One cannot but say that such a "report," which also seeks to implicate Jordan despite the Kingdom's strict adherence to the international embargo and sanctions against Iraq except those related to humanitarian areas, only aims at self-aggrandisement and perpetuating media sensationalism.

We are even surprised that the Iraqi government took the trouble of denying the "report," particularly that we have seen enough and more of the kind in the past. If anything, such reports have contributed to a large extent to bringing about the Gulf war. Indeed, one has also to say that London's Sunday newspapers are not exactly known for writing gospels.

However, one would have thought and hoped that such misguided and illogical reports—which, no doubt, find currency with some of governments still appearing to grind an axe with the Arabs—had come to an end and turned towards more realism and logic, now that most Middle Eastern issues appear to be coming to a head. But no, they have to continue the point that the food lifeline of an entire people could be dangerously exposed to the whims and fancies of external forces, which have their own agenda in this part of the world.

We are not naive enough to expect sincere portrayals of the reality of the situation in Iraq in the post-war era since it appears to have become a self-adopted rule for at least some that any mention of the bulk of the Iraqi people who are suffering within their homes, away from the borders of Turkey and Iraq, will be seen as "supporting" the Iraqi government.

The Observer report, to say the least, lacks compassion for the 16 million or so Iraqis who seem to have been forgotten by the international community, whose focus has been very conveniently shifted to the plight of the Kurds on the Turkish border and others on the Iranian border. We share the concern and sympathy for the

Kurds and other refugees, but we are appalled at the apathy that we see when it comes extending help to the rest of the Iraqi people.

Reports as those carried by the Observer do not serve the cause of helping a people who are in dire need of help. On the contrary they only contribute to continued denial to a people of the means to survive.

**Official Source Denies Report**

JN2904202791 Amman Jordan Television Network  
in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] An official Jordanian source has denied a report by the British newspaper THE OBSERVER in its edition of 28 April 1991 about Jordan's role in circumventing UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq.

The source said the report, which claims that Iraq has set up an organization in Jordan tasked with purchasing arms and advanced technology from certain Asian countries, is totally untrue. Such an activity, which no Iraqi party has asked for, is, in the first place, not allowed because it violates Jordanian trade laws, and because those who try to carry out such activity would be held accountable before judicial authorities. Furthermore, Jordan has strictly abided by the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq.

On the newspaper's claim that the Jordanian banking system has violated Security Council resolutions on Iraq, the official source stressed what the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has declared on many occasions that the system follows CBJ instructions which prohibit dealing with incoming or outgoing remittances from or to Iraq without the prior consent of the Security Council Sanctions Committee.

The CBJ declared at the time that the total of funds remitted to the CBJ from Iraqi sources in the first days after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis amounted to \$50 million, which represents repayment of Iraqi commitments to Jordan, according to the financial arrangements in place between the two countries since 1984.

It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian Government has officially notified the Security Council Sanctions Committee and the financial authorities in several countries concerned about these remittances.

The Jordanian source also asserted that the material now exported from Jordan to Iraq is confined to food, medical items, and humanitarian aid, which was allowed by the Security Council.

The Jordanian Government has notified the Security Council Embargo Committee of details of shipments crossing the Jordanian border into Iraq. The source also charged that Jordan has imported some of its oil from Iraq after notification to the Security Council Sanctions Committee.

Concluding, the official source expressed amazement and regret that such false reports, which might cast doubt on Jordan and create obstacles for the country, could be disseminated.

#### **King Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister**

JN2904184591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic  
1500 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon at al-Nadwah Palace.

Dr. al-Iryani conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

During the meeting, there was a comprehensive review of developments on the Arab arena and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary, the foreign minister, and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

#### **Yemeni Official Talks With Al-Masri**

JN2904144191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic  
1100 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] A round of talks between two delegations, a Jordanian one chaired by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a Yemeni one chaired by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, was held at the Foreign Ministry at noon today. They exchanged views on the Arab situation in general and means of revitalizing joint Arab action and the stands of the two countries on the level of the activity of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of bolstering and strengthening them to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and countries. They asserted the need to unite and coordinate Arab efforts on behalf of the Arab nation.

The talks were attended by Dr. al-Iryani's delegation and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman. Also attending were undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman this morning on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and convey to him a message from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen.

#### **Editorial Discusses U.S. Peace Efforts**

JN2904115991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic  
29 Apr 91 pp 1,13

[Editorial: "The Hour of Truth Has Come"]

[Text] Following the series of declared positions yesterday by a number of senior Israeli officials, we can now say that the hour of truth has come with regard to U.S. diplomacy, which must unequivocally admit that its peace efforts in the Middle East have ended in complete failure after they fell hard on the huge rock of Israeli rejection.

After Yitzhaq Shamir and several of senior members of his cabinet rejected the idea of a regional conference altogether, and after the Israelis reneged on all they had agreed on with James Baker in his recent tour, the U.S. Administration no longer has a margin of maneuverability to claim that the policy of appeasement and leniency toward the most extreme governments in Israel's history has made progress that permits the continuation of the diplomatic process.

Israel's declared position following the weekly government meeting yesterday no longer permits even Israel's friends in Washington to continue claiming that resolving the crisis in the Middle East can be accomplished outside the Security Council framework or through U.S. appeals, especially since Israel clearly said a just and comprehensive peace is not an Israeli option.

Of course, we are not surprised or astonished at such an Israeli position characterized by unparalleled political haughtiness. As we followed James Baker's three tours to the region, we continued to investigate the reason for the optimism the U.S. Administration continued to show with regard to the future of its peaceful efforts in the Middle East. We see no basis for any optimism which we can build on; neither do we see reason for the slightest confidence in the seriousness of this optimism, which was dispelled by Israel's statements and positions day and night.

Thus, if the United States deceived itself for some time with regard to Israel's peace intentions, this country—the first to take on global proportions—is not allowed now to exercise the policy of deception on the international community, which granted it the opportunity, time, and confidence to make sincere, tangible progress on the road to establishing peace in the Middle East, especially since Israel torpedoed with great force the pillars for establishing this aspired-for progress.

In view of all this, we urge the United States—which earlier committed itself to applying international legitimacy after it was through with the Gulf crisis—to take the initiative, resign from its hopeless Middle Eastern task, and turn it over to the UN Security Council, which is basically responsible for implementing its successive resolutions on the Middle East and implementing international legitimacy, whose banners the Americans raised high during the recent Gulf crisis.

### **PFLP-GC Refuses To Transfer Arms**

NC2904173591 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut, April 29 (AFP)—A key Palestinian group Monday said it refused to dismantle bases in southern Lebanon on the eve of a Lebanese Government deadline for militias and armed groups to disband.

"We have withdrawn medium-size and small weapons from the Beirut camps but the weapons of resistance and the base used in our combat against the Israeli enemy will be maintained," a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) said.

The source also demanded that Palestinian refugee camps be "protected from the hatred of certain Lebanese army brigades" and asked that Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon ensure their well-being.

The Lebanese Government has ordered militias and armed groups to disband by April 30 ahead of its deployment north and south of Beirut.

On Tuesday, soldiers were expected to take positions in mountains and coastal areas north and southeast of Beirut where the PFLP-GC has four bases.

The most important Palestinian position is located in Na'ahme, a coastal village 20 kilometers (eight miles) south of the capital, which has often been the target of Israeli raids.

The Damascus-based PFLP-GC is the only Palestinian organisation which refuses to withdraw its weapons from areas where the army will deploy.

Two other key groups, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have already evacuated their positions in the southeastern Shouf district in compliance with the wishes of the Lebanese authorities.

A third group, the Fatah-Intifadah, has done likewise.

### **To Remove Arms From Army Area**

NC3004091891 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic  
0900 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The office of Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has reported that following contacts with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], the front expressed its full readiness today to implement the Cabinet decisions and to withdraw its weapons from the Army's area of deployment. The Army is scheduled to begin its deployment tomorrow.

### **Iran Reportedly To Pull Out Revolutionary Guards**

NC3004062091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon  
in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] A knowledgeable political source has disclosed that Iran has agreed to withdraw its 440 Revolutionary Guards from Lebanon within 15 days. The source added that Hizballah will collect its weapons and send part of them to Iran along with the Revolutionary Guards.

### **Syrian 'Consent' for Hizballah To Retain Weapons**

NC3004072791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed  
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR quotes Iranian sources in Damascus as saying that Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani has obtained Syria's consent to keep Hizballah's weapons in al-Biq'a' and in the South. Citing a member of the Iranian delegation, the paper adds that Hizballah's weapons will not be removed as long as Zionist troops continue to occupy part of the South.

### **Army Deployment on Mountain To Begin 1 May**

NC3004144191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic  
1215 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The deadline set by the Council of Ministers for the deployment of the Lebanese Army on the mountain, al-Kurah, and al-Batrun, will expire at midnight tonight. According to exclusive information, the deployment will begin at 0630 tomorrow morning.

The first phase of the deployment will cover the coastal road between Nahr al-Kalb, al-Batrun, and al-Kurah, an area totaling 6 km. Later the Army will gradually deploy in the direction of mountain areas.

According to our political correspondent, a comprehensive agreement has been reached on three issues:

1. Handing over weapons which originally belonged to the Army;
2. Assembling the remaining weapons in depots to be determined by military committees. The lists prepared by the various organizations of the numbers of these weapons will be discussed today;
3. Returning weapons parts to their original sources and allowing the organizations to sell or dispose of the remaining parts within an agreed upon deadline.

In the course of its deployment, the Lebanese Army will confiscate the various types of weapons which are not assembled in the specified depots.

Our correspondent adds that this agreement was reached after intensive contacts involving Lebanese political leaders, Syria, the United States, and Iran all reportedly support the agreement.

Two schools of thought exist in the area of militia assimilation into the various state institutions: First, some want to assimilate all the elements in accordance with the regulations prepared by the organizations themselves; and second, some want to assimilate militias in accordance with established laws.

Our political correspondent reports that the ad hoc ministerial committee will prepare a report on this issue which will be referred to the Council of Ministers.

**Dib: Agreement Reached on Assimilating Militias**

NC2904210691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic  
2015 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Minister of State Roger Dib has stressed that an agreement has been reached on practical arrangements to assimilate the militias into state institutions. He said that a solution has been worked out for all parties. He disclosed that the solution is nationally balanced between the realities on the ground and the government ability to assimilate the militias.

Dib told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation that his visit to Damascus was positive and contributed substantially to the agreement [not further identified] we quickly reached as a result of implementing the cabinet decision.

**Dallul: All 'Have Consented' to Army Deployment**

NC2904175391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic  
1630 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul today was notified that all concerned parties have consented to the army's deployment in the specified areas according to the planned schedule. Minister Dallul said that the exchanges that took place over the past two days removing the obstacles that surfaced and threatened to obstruct the deployment plan. Dallul said that the instructions given by President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Karami were helpful in surmounting these obstacles.

Minister Dallul also praised the backing given by Syria to the deployment plan and the efforts to collect the militias' weapons.

**Junblatt News Conference on National Issues**

NC3004160791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain  
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Statement by Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, leader Minister Walid Junblatt followed by remarks in response to a question by an unidentified correspondent, in Bayt al-Din on 30 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] The PSP has declared its full readiness to hand over its arms in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Army and is currently doing so. As I have already said, this process will take some time because we are talking

about a large number of arms and ammunition. Yesterday we handed over the weapons that had been taken from the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

We will fulfill our promises. Lieutenant Colonel Fayyad [PSP member] met with Army Commander General Lahhud and the Army staff command to review the Army deployment plan. I want to stress that the deployment plan is a political plan. We as a party are prepared to help the Army carry out its mission. But I would like to stress that the internal security tasks must be undertaken by the gendarmerie and judicial police. The Army intelligence may open old files that go back to 1975 and 1976 and this may cause some problems.

We are not going to ask where the weapons held by other parties are. We hope that Dr. Ja'ja' will show the same attitude. We take into account the fact that he may have the same apprehensions we do because the promise of militia assimilation is vague. The Chamber of Deputies, certain Army commanders, and government figures are demonstrating a spiteful attitude in this regard, as if they are rejecting our youth and those of the Amal Movement and the Lebanese Forces. A state that is scared of its youths is afraid of the future. We are not surprised by this. What happened in the al-Ta'if accord? The old regime rejuvenated itself but did not find new blood. This formula, even though it is constitutional, is vague because there are differences over the nuts-and-bolts of this formula. We will have to make a stand if there is no clear promise to assimilate the militias' youths at the government's expense. [passage omitted]

Of course the main cause of the Lebanese war was the conflict over Lebanon, specifically with regard to Israel. The Lebanese Government will extend its authority to near Jazzin and the al-Awwali River. We hope that all Arab and international efforts will focus on liberating Southern Lebanon or we have ceded a strategic part of Lebanon and our sovereignty is incomplete. The issue of a special relationship with Syria and consolidating these relations on the political, military, and political levels is essential. We need to do so in order to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism and sovereignty particularly since Israel may hold on to Southern Lebanon. Although we are handing over our weapons, our guarantee is regrettably not the Lebanese Government—because there is no real government, only a structure or the remains of a government—our guarantee is Syria, the Syrian Arab Army, and the Syrian leadership. That is our guarantee as nationalists and Arabists until we become real partners in the Lebanese Government. We are not partners now. I am excluded although I am a minister. I am excluded in terms of political decision making.

There is an invitation to all nationalists in Jabal Lubnan, Beirut's southern suburb, Sidon, and all to come to Bayt al-Din. Bayt al-Din will never again be a Presidential Palace; it will be a palace for the people. Bayt al-Din is a national heritage and houses the torch of the unknown soldier of the PSP, the national parties, the national resistance, and the unknown Palestinian and Syrian

soldier, who fought with us throughout the years on all fronts. It will be a national museum. [passage omitted]

[Question] Has war really ended in Lebanon?

[Junblatt] God willing. We hope the war is over, but have the causes of the war been removed? Since the government is afraid of its sons, youths, and the future, how can it be a right and just government? We have not yet seen any evidence of this. If deprivation continues, it will be a cause for dispute. If history is distorted, it would be a cause for conflict, and if there are links with foreign circles, especially with Israel, the war would again break out. We must be very careful. We are trying to say that

the war is over and we are handing over our arms in response to a conciliatory decision. [passage omitted]

**Correction to ADP Begins Weapons Handover**  
NC3004133491

The following correction pertains to the article headlined "ADP Hands Weapons to Syrians," published in the 29 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 31:

Column two, first paragraph, second sentence make read: ...mortar guns, seven Katusha rocket launchers, 24.... (changing word "Korean" to "Katusha")

## More on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Delegation Visit

### Report on News Conference

JN2904164491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1518 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Report on news conference held by President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian President Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani with unidentified reporters in Damascus on 29 April; al-Asad's answers recorded; Hashemi-Rafsanjani's answers are read by announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] At the conclusion of their talks, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke to reporters. A report of their meetings with the media follows:

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani: On behalf of the journalists we welcome you as a dear guest of our people and their leader, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Your Excellency the President: Your important visit has generated regional and global media interest. Would you kindly evaluate the visit for us?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] To begin with, I thank my brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and top Syrian officials, as well as media officials, who have over the past few days overwhelmed us with their kindness and attention. The visit has met our expectations of having results beneficial to us and our region. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad made it possible for us to engage in lengthy talks during numerous sessions covering all issues. We have developed joint concepts. We met for over 15 hours in restricted and expanded sessions and discussed current Gulf developments and the situation in Iraq. We compared notes and found we held identical views. We also exchanged views on the Palestinian issue and on that score we also see eye to eye. Our discussions also touched on Lebanon and other issues related to the region. On the whole, we found we have identical views. I would say that we will leave Syria happy with the results of these meetings and the agreement we reached. Delegations from both sides also met and talked about many issues and their discussions are still going on.

Regarding the territorial integrity of Iraq, along with others, we will exert ourselves to keep it from being prejudiced. We have entered the implementation stage, too. Both of us regret the current situation in Iraq. This situation is continuing and the Iraqi people are facing difficult days. Those who are still in Iraq are facing pressures and many difficulties. Those who left Iraq also suffer from a similar situation.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, regarding Syrian-Iranian relations, which you have described as strategic, what are the areas in which you would like to work and cooperate in the future?

[al-Asad] I will begin by thanking President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for responding to our invitation to visit Syria. This visit was full of work and cordiality. During the visit, we held several expanded and restricted sessions, and we discussed all the events that we viewed as important and strategic. During the comprehensive sessions of our committees, the restricted sessions, some of which included the two presidents and a number of the delegation members, and the specialized bilateral sessions, things moved as we wanted, and the existing confidence between the two countries has always enabled all meetings and talks between us to succeed.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani summed up the talks between us when he mentioned the most prominent issues discussed. We discussed the Palestine question in light of current political moves and both of us stressed the need to back the Palestinian Arab people's right and to support the Palestinian Arab people in regaining their legitimate rights.

We have discussed the situation in Lebanon. We had the same opinion. As is known, we are both longtime supporters of Lebanon. Both of us support the unity of Lebanon and the reforms that have taken place and are taking place there. We hope all parties will move quickly to implement the national charter they have achieved. This is the way to salvation and for taking Lebanon out of its current situation and putting it on a sound and healthy footing. We have both expressed satisfaction with the practical steps taking place in Lebanon.

Naturally, we both noted that there is a special situation in southern Lebanon, with Israel occupying part of it. This contravenes many international laws and the UN Charter. It also contravenes what the Lebanese people want and what we want. It contravenes everything that is sought by whoever wishes the best for Lebanon. The best thing for Lebanon is the ability of the Lebanese state with its constitutional institutions to spread its sovereignty all over Lebanon. In this area in particular—in southern Lebanon—there will continue to be an abnormal situation as long as the state has incomplete sovereignty over its territory, until the Israeli occupation forces pull out of southern Lebanon, and until Israel implements UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's full withdrawal from the Lebanese territory it has occupied in this area. Naturally, we discussed the past, present, and future dimensions of the Gulf crisis.

The position of the two countries on this issue has remained unchanged. Both of us have been pained by the losses sustained there. Syria and Iran consider these losses, in the final analysis, to be losses for all of us. We had tried before the start of hostilities to do something together to spare Iraq, Kuwait, and the region this war and these losses. You know that irrational, illogical, and irresponsible conduct which we, and all well-intentioned efforts, were met with, prevented us from achieving what we had wanted and aspired to prevent the occurrence of this disaster. Naturally, we are following closely what is

happening in Iraq and we strongly advocate Iraq's territorial integrity. As for domestic affairs, they are first of all the concern of the Iraqi people. This of course does not mean that we are not concerned with what is going on there. It is not easy for observers who are following what is happening in Iraq to define with complete confidence how things will end up there. All that we hope and are working for, after what we did not want to happen did, is for the situation to end... [rephrases] that we all reach an end to this crisis, and the events this crisis entails—an end that does not go counter to the interests of the people of Iraq, nor the interests of any of us.

Naturally, there are less important events, or less important matters we discussed. All of this took place in an atmosphere of brotherliness, amity, friendliness, and objectivity. We also discussed bilateral relations. As President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, we have had a single view on these matters. As for us in Syria, I have also reviewed... [rephrases] presented to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in view of the strong friendship between us and because we are both concerned primarily with all the developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict—I have reviewed with him the overall activity going on in the Arab and international arenas on this issue. I repeat that I was very pleased with all the meetings that took place. I would like to stress that these meetings have deepened and enriched our mutual understanding and insight. We can also say that our meeting has added a brick, in fact several strong bricks, to the edifice of the bilateral relations of cooperation and brotherliness which we embarked on a long time ago.

The only flaw in this visit is that it was short. We will consider its shortness a debt to be repaid to us. [laughs] I bid President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the members of the delegation farewell, and I wish them a happy journey. As we stressed in this meeting, we will continue our contacts which are enlivened by the vitality we seek. I wish them success. In my name and on behalf of the Syrian people, I send with them my greetings to the Muslim Iranian people.

[Announcer] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented on his excellency the president's words by saying: We really felt a cordiality and amity that we cannot express in words.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been welcomed in the Arab and Islamic arenas. Do you believe relations between Iran and Egypt will be resumed soon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] These relations cannot remain severed forever. These relations will be restored one of these days, God willing.

[Reporter] President Hafiz al-Asad, in view of the recent sensitive developments in the Gulf region, how do you view the Iranian role in this region in light of these developments.

[al-Asad] Iran is a very important country. It is one of the most important countries in the region. No one can ignore its role. Everybody takes it and its role into account. There is no disagreement about this. As for how I view this role, that is a matter that needs technical, or tactical discussions. There is no disagreement, however, in views between us on this matter as shown by the issues we have discussed. We would not have discussed these issues had Iran not had a role to play in all of them, issues that are the most important issues being discussed by us. Do not pay too much attention to articles or commentaries written by this or that paper here or there. When these papers speak about this role, believe them only when they speak about accord.

### Communique Issued

JN2904200091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1833 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Joint Syrian-Iranian communique issued in Damascus and Tehran on 29 April on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Within the framework of meetings, consultations, and joint coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of supporting means of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in response to an invitation from President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, from 13 to 15 Shawwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 27-29 April 1991, at the head of a delegation comprising: Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister; 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, commerce minister; Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, petroleum minister; Mohammad Mir-Mohammadi, director of the president of the republic's office; Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hasan Rohani, secretary of the Higher Council of National Security; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Doa'i, member of the Islamic Majles; Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, head of the foreign committee of the Majles; Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus; Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director general at the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad Mohammad, adviser at the Foreign Ministry; and Mahmud Hashemi, head of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Hojjat ol-Eslam President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome by President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian leadership. The welcome epitomized the close friendship and respect which the two peoples feel toward each other.

During his stay in Damascus, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the Najha Martyrs' Graveyard, al-Sayyidah Zaynab Shrine, al-Sayyidah Ruqayyah Shrine, and the Grand Umayyad Mosque.

In an atmosphere replete with brotherhood, mutual confidence, and complete understanding, the two presidents held a series of important talks on ways to promote and further improve relations between the two countries. They also discussed regional, Islamic, and international issues, as well as the developments that have occurred in these issues of common interest since their meeting in Tehran on 1 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22 September 1990. The talks centered on the region's situation in the aftermath of the Gulf war, on the Palestine question, and the conflict with Zionism. The discussion also touched on the Lebanese issue and its developments.

The two presidents based their discussion and analysis of the various regional and international issues on the national interests of the region's people in light of the principles and goals defined by the joint communique issued after President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Iran.

The two presidents expressed their appreciation and admiration of developments in the Islamic world arena during the past decade and the concomitant awakening and progress of the Islamic nation throughout the various parts of the Islamic world. They considered this an auspicious sign of achieving an order based on justice, equality, and dignity of man, in light of the noble teachings of Islam and humanity.

In this context, the two presidents also expressed their support for the struggle of Muslims in the farthest parts of the world. They agreed that the high principles of Islam and its spiritual values should constitute the strong and distinguished foundation for relations among Arab and Islamic countries, considering each country's right to freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

They also stressed the principles of the nonacquisition of others' territory by force, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and resolving disputes between countries by peaceful means while rejecting the method of force, except in cases of legitimate self-defense and defense of the homeland, or if it is the only and irreplaceable way, to resist aggression, liberate occupied territories, and regain usurped rights.

The two presidents asserted peoples' rights to resist domination in all its forms and stressed the need to oppose Zionism and racism because of the dangers they pose to spiritual values and human principles. They were in agreement that the dangers surrounding the region require the broadest kind of political, security, economic, and cultural cooperation among Arab and Islamic countries, without foreign intervention.

The two presidents expressed their concern to protect humanity from the dangers of mass-destruction weapons, especially nuclear weapons. Their views were identical on all issues they discussed. They stressed the importance and need for continuing consultation and coordination, especially under the current circumstances and in light of regional and international developments.

In bilateral relations, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the important qualitative progress in Syrian-Iranian relations in the political field. They stressed the need to continue to consolidate these relations, which have proven their efficacy despite the events in the region and all the difficulties each country has faced and the constant pressures on both of them. The two presidents stressed the need to promote Syrian-Iranian relations to a distinguished level, especially in the economic, cultural, and technical fields, in the interest of the two friendly countries and their peoples. The two sides appreciated the efforts of the higher joint committees, which comprise the two vice presidents and the foreign ministers. They studied the decisions made by these committees. After appreciating these efforts, they expressed satisfaction with the positive results toward deepening and expanding bilateral relations, and emphasized the need for these efforts to continue.

Regional issues: The two sides studied the situation in the region in light of the recent developments, and the current attempts by global domination forces to employ the Gulf war in a direction different from that which serves the peoples of the region and their aspirations to build themselves up and achieve their progress away from interference in their internal affairs. The two sides asserted that the security of the region and achieving noble Arab and Islamic objectives lie with the countries of the region without any interference by foreign countries and forces, and away from any domination by these countries and forces.

A. The situation in the Gulf: The two presidents discussed thoroughly and comprehensively the serious results that the Gulf war has had on the region and on its people in general, and on Iraq and the Iraqi people in particular. They were in complete agreement that this destructive war could have been avoided and the Iraqi people spared its tribulations had the Iraqi regime listened at the time to the voice of reason and to the sincere voices counseling it to withdraw from Kuwait. The two presidents expressed deep pain and sorrow at the difficulties and tribulations these people are experiencing, and their sympathy for these Muslim Arab people.

The two presidents also voiced pain and distress at what the Iraqi regime had committed against hundreds of thousands of persons in southern, central, and northern Iraq who have been displaced toward neighboring countries. On this occasion, the two presidents noted that the international and humanitarian assistance to these homeless people has not been commensurate to the tragedy or at the required level.

The two presidents announced their rejection of any attempt to harm Iraqi territorial integrity and safety. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad voiced satisfaction and happiness at the good offices and the noble humanitarian assistance that the Islamic Republic of Iran offers to the Iraqi refugees on the basis of the sublime values and principles of the true Islamic religion.

B. Regional security: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad explained to his esteemed guest the basis and objectives on which the Damascus Declaration of 6 March 1991 was founded. President Hafiz al-Asad stressed the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the security of the region, in view of the importance of the close cooperation between the Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are bound together by the links of joint history, Islamic values, and neighborliness. The two presidents view this close cooperation as a basic factor in enhancing the common stands of the region's countries to safeguard their interests and protect the region's security and independence away from any foreign interference.

C. The Palestine cause and the conflict with Zionism: The two presidents discussed with great interest the Palestine cause and the conflict with Zionism in light of current developments in the region. They reaffirmed their condemnation of all attempts to entrench the Zionist occupation of all the occupied Arab territories and to obliterate the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. The two presidents affirmed the continuation of their two countries' joint struggle to regain all the occupied territories, foremost being Holy Jerusalem, and to secure the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state in Palestine.

The two presidents voiced their grave concern over the massive Jewish immigration into Palestine and the occupied Arab territory, and considered the serious political, economic, and demographic implications of this immigration. They noted that Jewish immigration enjoys the support and backing of certain nations, which encourage the usurper Zionist entity to cling to the occupied Arab and Islamic land and to persist in its settlement, annexationist, and aggressive policies.

The two presidents also gave due attention to the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied land, and voiced their full support for the intifadah and the steadfastness of Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and the national and Islamic resistance to the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon.

In light of the injustice endured by the Palestinian people as they are waging an unequal struggle against the Zionist enemy, the two sides urged all Muslim states and peoples and those yearning for peace and freedom throughout the world to extend full backing to the intifadah of this wronged people and to confront the crimes and savagery of the Zionist entity.

D. The Lebanese situation: The two presidents discussed the situation in Lebanon and asserted their support for the country's territorial integrity and efforts to confront partition plots. They praised the efforts being made to end internal strife and to establish tranquility and security in this country. The two presidents expressed their appreciation for the sacrifices of the national and Islamic

forces in the cause of driving the Zionist forces from Lebanon, and emphasized their continued support for the resistance until every inch of Lebanese territory is freed.

E. The world situation: The two presidents discussed global developments and their impact on the states and people of the Third World. Their views were in agreement that the world order should be based on principles of international law and international legitimacy, respect for sovereignty, rejection of racism and aggression, and noninterference in internal affairs. They stressed that any attempt to set up this world order remains inadequate and doomed unless it bridges the gap between advanced and Third World nations and prevents the continued control of the resources and economies of developing nations by industrialized states. The two presidents expressed their support for the historic and long struggle of Third World people against injustice, racial discrimination, colonialism, and enslavement as these peoples strive to attain their legitimate rights.

The two presidents emphasized the role of the Non-aligned Movement on the international scene, and agreed that they should work to reinforce this movement so that it assumes its natural and effective role in international politics.

His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the wise Syrian policies directed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. For his part, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad valued the national and Islamic accomplishments under His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's wise leadership and His Eminence 'Ali Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Their Excellencies Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed high appreciation for their summit meetings. They voiced full satisfaction with their talks and the agreements they have worked out, which mark a valuable contribution to deepening cooperation and friendship between the two states in the interest and prosperity of their people. They also expressed a determination to hold further meetings in the future and exchange views on various levels.

Meanwhile President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality and attention he and his delegation received. He extended an invitation to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. He accepted thankfully, and a date for the visit is to be set later.

#### Oil, Gas Agreement Signed

JN2904171591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1515 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] An oil and gas cooperation agreement between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran was signed in Damascus today. The agreement was signed for Syria by Dr. Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral resources, and for Iran by Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i,

Iranian oil minister. The signing ceremony was attended by the assistant oil ministers of both countries. The agreement notes the two countries' wish to promote existing relations in the field of oil and gas exploration and investment and provides for the exchange of technical expertise and visits. The agreement also provides for the bolstering of all that serves the two friendly countries.

At the end of the meeting, the two ministers confirmed that they were eager about continuing to meet and bolster joint cooperation in a way that will serve joint interest in accordance with the instructions of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

#### **Commentary Notes Iran's Role in Gulf Security**

JN3004095791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1130 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, when we review the events of the past years, we can clearly see that there is no country more concerned about Arabism and Islam than Syria. No effort has been on the level of Syria's efforts to support Arabism and Islam. No, realizing Arab and Islamic solidarity and entrenching a broad-based Arab-Islamic front has been the major concern of Syria and its great leader, President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria's stand alongside the Islamic Iranian revolution and its heroic attempts to convince the Iraqi regime not to fall into the enemies' trap and start a war with Iran in which the Arabs and the Muslims would be the losers and their enemies the winners, falls within the framework of this deep understanding of the demands of the struggle in our region. Successive events have proved the soundness of the Syrian stand. Had the Iraqi regime responded to the calls of duty, conscience, and fraternity, and extended the hand of aid to the Islamic Iranian revolution instead of fighting against it for eight long years; and had the Iraqi regime put its hand in Syria's and stood up for pan-Arab affairs, foremost of which is Palestine, instead of stirring up grudges against Syria, aggressing against Kuwait, threatening pan-Arab security, and providing all the pretexts for the foreign forces' entry into the region; yes, had the Iraqi regime elevated itself to the level of Syrian awareness and leader al-Asad's understanding of the requirements for steering a successful conflict in the region, we would not be bandaging our wounds today. Iraq would not be going through its current tragedy—its own people rendered homeless and foreigners in the north; Kuwait would not be the theater of these frightening fires, nor would trust be lost between the Gulf countries and the rulers of Baghdad. Israel would not be defying the whole world and insisting on expansion and settlement.

The great leader, Hafiz al-Asad, mentioned in his speech welcoming Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani all these facts and events as the required basis for overcoming the bitter reality and setting up a firm monument

for both the Arab and Islamic nations. What has happened has happened, and we now need to look to the future. The Damascus Declaration, signed by Syria, Egypt, and the Arabian Gulf states, was a nucleus for real Arab solidarity based on a number of principles and firm and entrenched givens. Syrian-Iranian relations, which have confronted all challenges throughout the past years and have risen to the level of strategic action, could also be a nucleus for a real Arab-Islamic solidarity.

Although Palestine is an Arab issue, supporting Palestine in its heroic struggle is an Islamic responsibility as much as it is Arab. Islam, as leader President Hafiz al-Asad justly affirmed, does not triumph and rise except with Arabism, and the opposite is true. Therefore, all efforts must be redirected to guarantee the retrieval of the usurped right in Palestine, the liberation of the holy shrines, and entrenchment of a just and comprehensive peace. Such a peace is not possible without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and securing the rights of the people of Palestine to their territory and homeland.

Leader al-Asad affirmed once again that there can be no forfeiture of rights or bargaining over them. He placed the international community before its responsibilities of implementing its resolutions to put an end to the Zionist enemy attempts to equivocate, forge history, and slight the minds of human beings wherever they may be. At the same time, he renewed his commitment to supporting Lebanese legitimacy in its attempts to retrieve the occupied South and entrench national unity.

The talks between leader al-Asad and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani derive great importance from the concerted Syrian efforts to overcome the woes and setbacks caused by Iraq's rulers. Joint Arab action is on its way to revival. Arab-Iranian relations have witnessed clear improvement. Efforts are continuing to realize an effective Arab-Islamic solidarity. Iran has a momentous role in the Gulf and in realizing peace and security in it. This role will be a support and aid to Arab power. The Islamic Iranian revolution has affirmed its frank commitment to supporting Arab causes, foremost of which is Palestine and the unity of Iraq's territories.

Syria, which supported the Iranian revolution throughout the years, has never expected from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani anything less than this responsible and lofty stand at a time when efforts are concentrated on helping the Iraqi people, maintaining their unity, and implementing the UN resolutions on Palestine and the occupied territories, and at a time when Arabs and Muslims are turning to Damascus since it is the real guarantee for retrieving the rights and holy shrines.

#### **Commentary Stresses 'Close' Syrian-Iranian Ties**

JN2904184191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1115 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] As a result of past critical tests and identical positions, relations between al-Asad's Syria and the Islamic revolution's Iran can no longer be shaken or endangered by stagnation. These relations were born strong in the early days of the Iranian Islamic revolution and are not only concerned about bilateral matters, but also about the overall situation in the region and the various aspects of the Islamic and international situation. One main aspect of these relations is Iran's position on the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Arab right to liberate the occupied land and restore the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran has backed that right and repeatedly announced its readiness to contribute, with all its capability, to ending the injustice done to the Palestinians and the Arabs and to securing justice in the region.

The unjust war launched by Iraq's ruler against revolutionary Iran dissipated the energies of both Iran and Iraq and kept them away from the arena of confrontation through eight years of fighting. Syria's support for right at the time and condemnation of the war and the excuses fabricated by Baghdad's regime strengthened the cohesion between Damascus and Tehran and also increased the Iranian Islamic revolution's confidence in its role and its position toward the cause of the Arabs and Muslims in occupied Palestine.

Hence, the similar positions of Syria and Iran on the recent Gulf war were evidence of the close relations and their identical vision of a long-term strategy on the solid basis of clear-cut ideas, positions, and goals. Just as Syria's position on the Iraq-Iran war prevented the expansion of the scope of the war under a false pan-Arab cover, the joint Syrian-Iranian position on the recent Gulf war also prevented the expansion of that war and saved the region and its states from destruction, which everybody was certain would take place.

In light of this, the Damascus summit between leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad and Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is the culmination of a decade of close relations and identical positions and is a new promotion of these relations and positions toward clear strategic goals.

The Damascus summit drew unprecedented Arab, Islamic, and international interest and was the subject of much analysis and special focus from various political and media circles because it symbolizes a positive development in Syrian-Iranian relations and because it will reflect on several issues in and outside the region at a time when the region is passing through the most complicated and difficult circumstances and repercussions resulting from the Gulf war in the region. Syria and Iran will always face up to their responsibilities in the region and will work together in an atmosphere of confidence and friendship in the interest of their people and the region's people regardless of the extent of the dangers.

### **Iranian Support for Arab Causes Praised**

JN2904062491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
0445 GMT 29 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Support for the Arab Struggle," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH points out that the Syrian-Iranian summit, including all the issues and topics listed on its agenda, is of great significance because of the constructive cooperation. Once again, the two speeches by Presidents al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani at this summit stressed adherence to the unity of Iraqi territory and the firm opposition to any interference. It was also stressed that the security of the region is the responsibility of its sons alone, and that the central Palestine question is the first and most important one for Arabs and Muslims.

The newspaper affirmed that the summit itself, as well as development of Iranian positions which support and side with our just causes, both constitute a strong backbone for strengthening the Arab stand in confronting Zionist challenges.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Any meeting of this kind is a strengthening of the two countries' positions in defense of the causes of freedom, fairness, and justice in our region and the world.

### **Party Officials Conclude Visits to PRC, Moscow**

JN2304202291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1815 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the accompanying leading party delegation returned to Damascus this evening following a visit to the People's Republic of China.

The delegation was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by a number of comrade members of the pan-Arab leadership, a number of party cadres, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with the leadership of the Communist Party of China in which a cooperation program was signed between the two parties for 1991-1992. The delegation also met with the CPC secretary general and a number of leading Chinese key figures in Beijing, Shanghai, and the southern districts.

On its way back from Beijing, the delegation stopped in Moscow where it met with Comrade Aleksandr Dzasokhov, CPSU Politburo member, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Joint Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in addition to other leading key figures. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the developments in both countries and the Arab region, in addition

to each party's position on these issues and their activities in this regard. The two sides also signed a party cooperation program for 1991-1992.

**Qaddah Receives PRC Delegation 25 Apr**

*JN2504184691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic  
1515 GMT 25 Apr 91*

[Text] At noon today, Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Comrade Gu Mu, deputy chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and his delegation; with Daniel Ni'mah, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front

[NPF] and the PRC ambassador in Damascus in attendance. The two sides reviewed relations between the two parties and peoples and considered ways to develop and consolidate these ties.

Comrade Qaddah explained to the guest delegation the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in leading the state and society and the great economic and social development and gains made by our people since the Corrective Movement.

The assistant secretary general then outlined regional developments and Syria's principled and pan-Arab stand led by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and head of the NPF against Israel's expansionist, settlement policies. He praised the PRC's stand in support of Arab causes.

Comrade Gu Mu praised Syria's achievements and the wise policies of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

## Afghanistan

### Government 'Admitted' Army Links With Mujahidin

*BK2704085891 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Apr 91*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Kabul regime has admitted [for] the first time of links with the Afghan mujahidin within the ranks of Kabul regime Army. This has been disclosed by a military committee which was investigating the bomb blast in the Bala Hesar military garrison. The head of the investigating committee said in his report that the bomb explosion was the result of negligence of the military. The report mentioned large devastation of arms and ammunition; 18 Kabul regime troops were also killed.

### Mujahidin Execute Suspected Kabul Supporter

*BK2704154091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 91*

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin executed (Mulla Guljan), who was suspected as being the supporter of the Kabul regime. He was arrested when Khowst fell to the mujahidin. (Mulla Guljan) was accused of making speeches on Khowst Radio against the mujahidin and mocking the Afghan jihad.

### 'Fierce' Battles Reported in Several Provinces

*BK2904154491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in several provinces, including Lowgar, Baghlan, Parvan, Samangan, Balkh, and Nangarhar, with mujahidin causing heavy losses in men and material to Kabul forces. In Nangarhar, mujahidin attacked Jalalabad Garrison with mortar guns, damaging several tanks and destroying several vehicles. About 90 Kabul soldiers were killed and injured in this attack. In Balkh Province, mujahidin captured two military posts in Rawat which the Kabul troops abandoned without putting up any resistance.

After six days of fierce fighting, mujahidin repulsed a major offensive by Kabul forces against their positions in Baghlan Province, causing heavy losses in men and material for the attacking troops.

Mujahidin attacked Kabul Highway with heavy artillery, which caught a military truck on fire. The anti-aircraft artillery pieces loaded on the truck were destroyed by the fire.

According to reports, two Kabul militiamen killed their commander in Chakari area of Kabul Province and then joined mujahidin.

### Rebels Reportedly Retreat After Lowgar Losses

*BK3004013891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 29 Apr 91*

[Text] Islamabad, April 29 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have retreated from several bases after suffering losses in a big Afghan Government offensive in Lowgar Province, south of Kabul, informed resistance sources said Monday.

They abandoned their positions amid heavy ground and air operations which government troops launched 10 days ago to drive the resistance fighters out of the vicinity of Kabul, they said.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said heavy fighting was continuing Monday after mujahidin reinforcements arrived from nearby areas. It gave no casualty figures.

Both Kabul and resistance sources have told of hundreds of dead and wounded in the fighting in Lowgar, which is largely controlled by the Hezb-i-Islami Party led by fundamentalist rebel Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Sources close to Mr. Hekmatyar said his men had suffered major setbacks in Waghjan Region, while Hezb-i-Islami sources described the retreat as "a tactical withdrawal."

The state-run Radio Kabul said Sunday that the resistance had been flushed out of the area, and that government control over an important road between Kabul and Lowgar's capital Pule Alam had been restored.

Qaribur Rehman Saeed, who is considered close to Hezb-i-Islami, refused to comment on the claim. "We can neither confirm nor deny" the report that the 70 kilometer (46 mile) highway was in government hands, he said.

A major part of Lowgar has been in mujahidin hands, and sources said the rebels had been planning to consolidate their hold on the province for an eventual move on Kabul.

The guerrillas already occupied strategic mountains in Paghman, west of Kabul, and the government was fearing a pincer attack after the guerrillas' march 31 capture of the eastern garrison city of Khowst.

Kabul's official BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY, monitored in Islamabad, said Afghan Interior Minister Raz Mohammad Pakteen visited troops in Waghjan Region where he was shown ammunition seized from mujahidin.

The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said guerrillas were preparing to shift 23 tanks and armoured vehicles captured in Khowst to nearby Gardeyz for a full fledged offensive. Gardeyz, capital of eastern Paktia Province, has been under rocket attack for the past few days.

### Garrison Chief Briefs Najibullah on Operations

LD2904205391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto  
1530 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] This afternoon esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces, attended an Armed Forces Supreme Command briefing by General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defense minister, general commander of Kabul garrison, and commander of Lowgar front.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi presented detailed and comprehensive information on the accomplishments of combat units and companies of the Armed Forces in Kabul garrison in implementing the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces Supreme Command order to liberate regions in Muhammad Agha district and open the main Kabul-Gardeyz road which has been closed for years by the extremists. He also spoke about the heroism and bravery of the units and companies in the combat operation to crush the enemy and eliminate arms and ammunition depots and heroically seize their strong positions in (Tangi Waghjan) and Muhammad Agha. The Armed Forces Supreme Command headed by Afghan President Najibullah, approved this report and was satisfied with it.

General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi added that during the course of the combat operation 470 armed extremists were killed, 443 were injured, two armed Pakistani citizens were arrested, and the bodies of three Pakistanis and four mercenary Wahabis were seized. Also, nine armored vehicles, eight BM-12 rockets, five cannons, nine rocket launchers, three mortars, seven DShK five PK [as heard] machine guns, a Zk-1 gun, five transport vehicles, a large quantity of light weapons, millions of rockets, and heavy and light weapons ammunition were seized. Dozens of arms and ammunition depots and hundreds of light and heavy enemy weapons were destroyed.

On General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi's recommendation, Afghan President Najibullah commended a number of generals and officers by awarding them extraordinary promotions, and commended a number of generals, officers, and soldiers by awarding them medals and decorations of the Republic of Afghanistan and giving them residential and agricultural plots. He commended all the soldiers and officers in the combat operation with cash incentives of one month's salary.

### Senate Statement on 'Interim Government'

LD2904182891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto  
1530 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Statement issued by the Senate of the Meli Shura in Kabul on 28 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear compatriots, the military rulers of Pakistan characteristically have never, from the date of its foundation until today, refrained from harrasing its neighbors and creating headaches in one form or another for the countries in the region and in particular for its neighbors. Over the last 12 years, Pakistan has been transformed into a camp of the Afghan opposition. It has fanned the fire of war in our homeland and has flooded our country with murderous weapons.

Despite this inhuman behavior, the Republic of Afghanistan wisely declared the policy of national reconciliation and, based on that, resolutely pursued peace talks in order to end the war. One result of this humanitarian policy is the withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

But the militarist Government of Pakistan, which is a signatory to the Geneva Accords, has, contrary to all its pledges, pursued a policy of war and antireconciliation and has embarked on the creation of the so-called mujahidin interim government. It has carried out this task behind closed doors under the supervision of the Pakistani generals in Rawalpindi and has instigated and further encouraged the leaders of the Afghan opposition to kill Afghan citizens. To cite an example, recently, after a flagrant and open aggression against Afghanistan in Khowst Province, [Pakistan] revealed its expansionist intentions with the false hope for the creation of a confederation. Thus, after the loss and injury of hundreds of human beings and the plunder of the people's property in the city, Senator (Qazi Husain Ahmad) illegally arrived in Afghan territory in Khowst Province and impudently declared that the Pakistani border lies on the Amu Darya. This is an illusion for the Pakistani militarists and, like the participation of Pakistani military units in aggression against Jalalabad, Qandahar, and Zabol will not bring them anything but shame.

Dear compatriots, this aggressive action against the national sovereignty and the violation of our country's territorial integrity takes place in conditions and at a time when the president of Afghanistan, following his relentless peaceful efforts and in consideration of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation aimed at maintaining the principles of good-neighborliness, proposed to the Government of Pakistan that the government and peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan, instead of being political-military adversaries, should rather be politico-economic partners. The faithful people of Afghanistan will judge for themselves the gulf between the proposals put forward by the Government of Afghanistan and the militarist answer by the Government of Pakistan.

The action of Senator (Qazi Ahmad), which was widely reported Pakistan's mass media, in the Islamic world, and in the West—has been seriously condemned even by some politicians in Pakistan. A number of delegates of other political parties boycotted the Pakistani parliament on Thursday, 4 April, to protest the visit of Senator

(Qazi Husain Ahmad) to Khowst without a passport. The visit is seen as direct interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Senate of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, while expressing strong regret at the repeated and direct interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, considers Senator (Qazi Husain Ahmad) illegal entry into Afghanistan as contrary to the will of the Muslim people of Pakistan, contrary to all norms and standards of international law, disrespect to the people of Afghanistan, and a trampling on parliamentary ethics and in particular of the Senate. It strongly condemns this action and warns that, just as the dream of the mightiest empire of the time, Britain, did not come true in our country—the imaginary confederation of the Pakistani authorities and their partners, including Senator (Qazi Husain Ahmad) will also not come true. The aforementioned (Qazi) and his likes should pay attention to their actions in the future in case instead of gaining something, they might lose something.

[Signed] The Senate of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan.

#### **Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani 'Aggression'**

*LD2804171691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto  
1530 GMT 28 Apr 91*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, the head of the ministry's First Political Department gave him a very strong protest note, the text of which is as follows:

Pakistani military circles are shamelessly continuing their interference and aggression against the Muslim people and the national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan. They have been sending their spies to Afghanistan to carry out acts of sabotage, war, and bloodshed.

On 22 April, Abdul Qader, son of Halim Shah, a Pakistani citizen who had illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, was arrested by the Afghan Armed Forces in the region of Samar Khel, Nangarhar Province, while he was engaged in terrorist action, intimidation, and provocation of the extremists to intensify war and bloodshed.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests against such aggressive actions by Pakistani militarists, which go against all the accepted international norms and standards, the principles of international relations, and the provisions of the Geneva Accords. It demands that the responsible authorities of Pakistan's Government prevent the repetition of such acts of aggression in future. Otherwise, the grave responsibility for such actions will rest with the Pakistani Government.

#### **Protests Missiles to 'Extremists'**

*LD2804171791 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto  
1530 GMT 28 Apr 91*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan the head of the ministry's first Political Department gave him a protest note, the text of which is as follows:

Pakistan's military circles, pursuing the interfering policy of Islamabad and going against the provisions of the Geneva accords, the norms of international relations, and the principles of human rights, have put at the disposal of Afghani extremists deadly missiles to kill the Muslim people of Afghanistan. The extremists are firing the missiles on the non-military and residential areas of Kabul.

According to a report by the responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, on 27 April several missiles, which had been put at the disposal of the extremists by Pakistan's militarists, were fired on the residential areas of Kabul city. As result of this, a number of civilians, including women, children and elderly people were martyred and injured. Several people's homes were destroyed and other material damage was caused by the missiles.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan expresses its outrage and indignation over this savage attack by the extremists, which was carried out with the direct backing of Pakistan's militarists. It protest strongly against the attack to the Government of Pakistan. It strongly demands that the Pakistan Government prevent such savage actions in future.

#### **Najibullah Speaks on Current Issues**

*LD2404162391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto  
1630 GMT 23 Apr 91*

[Speech by President Najibullah at tribal jirga in Kabul on 23 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Esteemed chiefs, dignitaries, elders and dear youths: Peace be upon you.

We have completed the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and we are now at the beginning of 1370. If we look at 1369, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan had many gains and victories in all areas in socio-political fields and also in the military sphere. That is to say: As the people of Kabul city were tormented by the firing of missiles by the extremist groups, we put this duty before ourselves ('to extend) the security zone of Kabul. As you know, we cleared the whole of Paghman area after 12 years; operations were successfully carried out in Arghani Bala and Pa'in, and the security zone was broadened to these regions: Lalander region, Khak-e

Jabar area, and wards and regions in Dehzbaz were cleared of extremists. Of course we did not characterize our operations as offensive but we were forced [words indistinct] for the purpose of restoring the security of Kabul citizens [words indistinct].

Last year we decided to open the Kabul-Gardeyz highway. This operation was successfully carried out and Gardeyz was more or less freed from economic blockade [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The security of Kabul-Hayraton highway was nearly restored on a permanent basis which is a major gain of the actions taken by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. We then decided to open the Baghlan-Konduz highway, a task which fortunately was also successfully completed; the Konduz-Khowaja Ghar highway was also opened, and thus all links between northern provinces were more or less restored [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

We have earnestly taken these measures for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, and we have also made gains in the military area, while the opposition side faced defeat both from the military and political point of views. This created the conditions for saying, both at home and abroad, that the Afghan issue can no longer be solved by means of war: Let us solve this issue by political means. It has even happened, as you have heard from the world's mass media, that the Soviet Union and the United States are engaged in working on a resolution and their stances and positions are getting closer; and they want to issue a statement saying that this problem should be quickly solved by political and peaceful manner. [words indistinct] but this issue and other issues were postponed and pushed back. Here this question arose for Pakistani warmongering circles: What should we do now? Should we sit around a table with the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and discuss issues; it [the Afghan Government] has something in its hand, but our hand is empty. In particular, Pakistani efforts did not just start since the Sower transformation: I must remind you of this and keep it in your mind, they started toward the end of Muhammad Zahir Shah's reign, which covered all the years of the Daud presidency, as well as after the Sower transformation. It is about 20 years ago that Pakistan commenced brazen interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

They [Pakistan] designed a plan of aggression against Khowst. For this purpose their artillery and armored units arrived and took up position along the borders; and then they embarked on long-range artillery fire from the border. In any event, we were prepared and issued reports. First of all we passed this information to the United Nations, stating: They [Pakistan] are engaged [in aggression]. The Geneva Accords were signed under your supervision, and the United States and Soviet Union have guaranteed them. For the past two years they have continued their interference and trampled on the accords, and now they are making preparations for

aggression. Their units have arrived along the border; please send your delegation to see.

Not only once but three times we stated the situation. On the other hand, we strengthened our Khowst garrison. I must tell you that during the 18 nights when the battle was going on they suffered heavy loss of life and our armed forces fought with much bravery and courage. Undoubtedly, there were some traitor elements. There were traitors in the Jalalabad war too. In every battle some [words indistinct]. Eight times they were confronted with defeat (?which made them retreat) despite the fact that they were supported by artillery, [word indistinct] tanks, and machines.

A number of militia and volunteers then entered Khowst. They began their attack on Khowst from four sides on 29 March. Their attack continued from morning to evening. Their attack faced defeat. We heard here the noises saying [words indistinct]. They retreated. From the other side armored, commando, and artillery units entered our territory, but halted. On 30 March they reorganized themselves a little bit and on the 31st they launched a brazen, direct, and aggressive attack on Khowst. Again I say to them I regret this situation: 5,000 of them were killed in these few days and 6,000 were injured.

After all, what was the product of this war? I hesitate a little bit on this point. First of all, they did not come by their own feet, dear friends, dignitaries, and chiefs. They came on others' shoulders. You have seen in history that the Afghan nation (?rises against) those who come in on others' shoulders. No Shah Shoja [Afghan king supported by British] finds (?a place among) the people of Afghanistan. They are not ashamed to come on the back of others. The next day the Pakistani generals and the leaders of reactionary parties sent them to Khowst and made them stand on the territory of Khowst, and there they made this speech, saying: We have thrown the Durand line in the Amu river as a result of capturing Khowst. What does this mean? [words indistinct] all the line was thrown in the Amu river: all Afghanistan from the border of Pakistan. It is with no shame that they make this statement. Not only military forces but Judge Husyn Ahmad also made this statement, saying: We have also sent 4,000 volunteers in addition to the military forces. One hundred of them were killed, too.

Not only in the Pakistani press but in the world too it was clearly stated that this was a direct aggression; and those people who are military personnel or some of our friends who returned said to me how many Pakistani regiments and battalions they had seen, from Pakistani armoured to artillery forces, when they were passing along these roads. [passage omitted]

Imagine that Najib is not here tomorrow and they, this Gulbuddin, come here on the back of Pakistan, and sit here: Imagine the impossible: Who will become a hero in history?

The second thing is: They came and ousted all Khowst clans, Isma'il Kheyli, Curboz, Tani, Matun, Sabari and Lakan, from their homes, from their own homes, own homeland. The beautiful Khowst, where farming went on normally and where there was a school, a hospital, and markets, and business. They destroyed them all. While the fighting was going on 30,000 to 40,000 shells were fired into Khowst. Khowst was razed to the ground. Some 15,000 people lived in the city. Three shells were apportioned to every person in one day. [passage omitted] Tell me whether they won Khowst or have lost it for good. You are Pashtuns and know about all their customs, tell me, whether they have won Khowst and whether have they won over those clans. No one can answer those clans, even in 100 years. Have they gained a victory, or have they truly failed themselves? Forget about that, I know that you tribal people have arranged jirgas to talk about what shall be done if the same happens to you. I know about your meetings. You wonder whether you too will be looted in the same manner by others. All clans and tribes have been shocked throughout the country. [passage omitted]

Now the issue is being raised that when you want to overthrow this regime you should set up such a regime that will at least show to the people that it is a hundred times better than the previous one. It is their responsibility- Khowst had schools, homes, and villages, water, a hospital; fertile green Khowst existed. What did you do when you came in? You should have bettered it a hundred times. But you [opposition] razed it to ground. And on top of that you brought in the Pakistanis and want to set up a nest for Pakistanis in Khowst. [passage omitted]

I will not allow this. Khowst belongs to those people and clans I mentioned above. This is not the territory of those traitors, and Pakistani military and agents. Let us judge what is the outcome of this battle [words indistinct]. Since the declaration of national reconciliation, I have said every day say that fighting is fruitless. It increases death and injury, both on this side and that. [passage indistinct] I am not going to change my policy even if I gain victories across the country against all fronts and even if I teach them historic lessons and confront all of them with death—God himself brings down calamities on them. Look what happened to them in Kunar. Five hundred of their people were killed and 700 to 800 were injured. They are fighting among themselves. But they claim that rockets were fired on them. God is my witness—if I win all fronts and then rule over the coffins and graves of the people, what kind of dignity and honor will that be, I tell you, what kind of power will that be? Still, we are Pashtuns, I tell them my military doctrine and philosophy is defensive. It is as I explained to you at the beginning. If we are insuring the security of Kabul Province, it is to stop rockets coming, or to make them come less, and to prevent them.

[Excerpts] If we have opened roads it is to feed people. I vacated provinces myself—you remember Kunar, Pak-tika and many other border areas. The aim was that

when the Geneva agreements are concluded they should come here and settle. This is not the [?issue]. Kondo was lost. It was retaken. With that victory I do not say that I have won the whole world, or that with the many success I recounted previously I have won the whole world. [passage omitted]

In war it happens [words indistinct]. It is the logic of war, sometimes one mounts an offensive, sometimes one maneuvers, sometimes one retreats, sometimes one really faces defeat. But this is the characteristic of war. However, the important thing is, what is the eventual national, Afghan and political outcome. When I look at them in this way, they are in for a defeat. Well, the Pakistanis think that circumstances and time are favorable for them so they can impudently achieve everything. But I reassure you that I have not yet called on my friends though, you know, a large and authoritative delegation of friends came here a few days ago not only to expand military and economic aid but also to give any kind of aid. I expressed my gratitude and told them that they should only carry on their political and diplomatic measures and we should supply them with evidence on Pakistani interference. Their puppet opposition [to the Afghan Government] have not been able to do anything on their own over the past two years but Pakistan—despite the fact that we showed it goodwill, and any time it wants to extend its hand to this hand of goodwill, I will firmly hold that hand. But if it would like to continue its aggression into the territory of Afghanistan in the manner of a colonialist and aggressor power then, let alone me, so long as an Afghan boy or girl lives and so long as a woman gives birth to Afghan sons, (they will safeguard this country) [applause].

Therefore, kinsmen, elders, I wanted to have a meeting with you. Duties were somewhat heavy, so it was delayed. I ask you, participants in this jirga to advise me. I have always asked you for your advice. I have sought your advice in all loya jirgas, I again seek your advice, what are we going to do? Shall we surrender the country to Panjabi [words indistinct]. Leave the country to be dismembered, and drown the Durand line in the Amu river, destroy our homes and villages, and allow our children to be drowned in water and our sisters and mothers to become living vagabonds. [passage omitted]

I cordially wish you success and health. Some difficult days lie ahead but behind all these difficult days, I have always said, I see light. This kind of ups and down are made for lions and men. [applause] Little kids also can walk on the asphalt roads of Pakistan's Mall Road. Let them fulfill their subservience there and we will keep here our Afghan and honorable and historic heads high. Thank you.

## Bangladesh

### Deputy Speaker Stresses Sovereignty of Parliament

BK2804164691 Dhaka Domestic Service in English  
1530 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The deputy speaker, Sheikh Razzaq Ali, has said the present parliament, which is a product of a long and

relentless struggle against autocratic rule is sovereign. He was making a statement in the house this evening, dispelling controversies among some members of the opposition about the entry of former minister and an elected MP [member of parliament], Mr. Anwar Hussain Monju, in the parliament bhavan [building] and subsequent taking of oath yesterday despite a warrant of arrest against him. The chair ruled that the oath of office was administered to Mr. Anwar Hussain Monju under prevailing laws of the land. He reminded the house that it is the sacred duty of all concerned to protect the rights and dignity of all members of parliament.

Earlier, the Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a heated debate for over one and a half hours over this issue.

#### **Parliament Briefed on Indian Territory Transfer**

BK2404161491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English  
1530 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad was informed during question hour this afternoon that the Government of India has initiated necessary administrative measures for transferring Three Bigha corridor to Bangladesh soon. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman told the house in a reply to a question that the Indian Government has given the assurance that the transfer will be completed in the near future. Bangladesh, he said, is in constant touch with India on this issue.

Replying to another question, the foreign minister told the house that the interim government had cancelled a contract with an American firm. This firm was engaged by the former government to help promote Bangladeshi interests in the United States. It was paid a fee of \$324,000 at a rate of \$108,000 annually.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia informed the house that over 5,500 convicted persons were released up to March this year following the takeover of the interim government. Of them 824, were sentenced to life imprisonment. In reply to another question, she said 1,375 persons are now detained under the Special Powers Act of 1974. Twenty-nine civilians were hanged to death in different jails during the last five years.

#### **Army Chief Leads Military Delegation to PRC**

BK2404162891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English  
1530 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, left Dhaka today for Beijing on a goodwill visit to China. He is heading a military delegation. During his stay in Beijing, General Nuruddin will call on Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei and Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army General Chi Haotian.

#### **Ershad Says Political Motives Behind Arms Case**

BK2704161491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English  
1530 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] At the special tribunal in Dhaka today, former President Ershad pleaded not guilty to the charge of possessing unauthorized arms and ammunition saying that the case was filed against him out of political motivation. Before the accused made this statement, the tribunal judge read out the accusation brought against Ershad in course of the prosecution charges, the deposition by prosecution witnesses, the examination in chief and cross-examination during the trial before the court. The court will resume hearing on Tuesday [30 April].

#### **India**

#### **Sikh Militants Kill Congress-I Activist**

BK3004073891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0724 GMT  
30 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 (AFP)—Assassins shot dead an activist of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party here amid reports that the murder was in retaliation for the Hindu politician's role in 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Two gunmen identified as Sikh militants riding a motorcycle fired from pistols, killing Ram Prakash Gupta, 52, in the residential Safdarjang enclave on Sunday and sped away past police barricades, officials said Tuesday.

Police initially kept secret the late night assassination, and Monday launched a manhunt for the young killers wearing cloth turbans, the traditional Sikh headgear, the officials said.

Mr. Gupta, a florist, was killed a little distance from a house where police detectives were questioning residents in connection with the murder of an elderly couple reportedly by serial killers, they said.

Intelligence officials said Mr. Gupta, a senior South Delhi Congress (I) activist, was on a hit list of Punjab militants who accused him of participating in a bloody anti-Sikh Hindu backlash that swept across India in 1984 leaving at least 5,000 dead.

The rioting flared after the assassination of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Rajiv's mother and predecessor, outside her official home October 31 1984 by two Sikh police guards.

Sikh militants campaigning in Punjab for a homeland blame the Congress (I) for spearheading the anti-Sikh rioting, which was mainly concentrated in New Delhi. Two other party leaders have since died in retaliatory attacks here by Sikh militants.

### Kill Punjab Governor's Aide

BK2604162491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 26 (AFP)—Sikh militants shot dead Friday an aide to Punjab governor om Prakash Malhotra, while 24 others also died in unending Sikh separatist violence in the troubled Indian state.

Two gunmen fired at the car of Ratan Lal Sharma, the governor's secretary, soon after he left his house in the heart of Chandigarh city with another state government official, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Hundreds of shocked onlookers witnessed the daring attack, but the killers escaped, police said.

Police said the assailants were reportedly waiting on a scooter near a government building, and when Mr. Sharma's car came that way, one of them opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle.

Mr. Sharma took several bullets in his head and chest and died instantly, while his co-passenger, Devinder Kaushik, a government official posted in New Delhi, died in hospital.

PTI said the militants escaped "despite the presence of a large number of security personnel" in the residential district and a nearby market and bank complex.

Mr. Sharma's driver was not hurt, police said.

The attack was widely seen as a challenge to the federally-administered Punjab government which had said conditions were favourable to hold polls in the northern state where Sikh militants are fighting for independence.

Also Friday, security forces shot dead a Sikh militant in the border district of Amritsar, while another rebel took cyanide and died to avoid arrest in the same area, PTI said.

Twenty-one others, including a policeman who was on leave and his sister-in-law, were killed in continuing violence in Punjab blamed on both Sikh militants and security forces, the news agency said.

The latest death count took to at least 1,480 the number of people killed in Punjab this year in the bloody Sikh separatist campaign.

### Shekhar on Punjab, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir

BK2804040391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has called upon the people of Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir to resolve their issues through a dialogue. He was addressing a public meeting in Ahmedabad last evening. Mr. Chandra Shekhar criticized the Congress-I for its opposition to hold the dialogue with the Punjab militants for bringing peace and unity.

Later, addressing a press conference, he said 90 percent of the population in Punjab is against extremists' activities. Referring to the boycott of elections in Punjab by some political parties, he said elections in the state will be held as scheduled.

### Gandhi Urges Improving Relations With Pakistan

BK2704162891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has called for new measures to improve relations with Pakistan. Addressing a meeting of the Indian association of foreign affairs correspondents in New Delhi today, he said the relationship based on the European Community model can bring the two countries closer and reduce border tension.

Mr. Gandhi also suggested a fresh look of the policy of nonrecognition of Israel.

### Anti-Pakistan Demonstrations Reported in Kashmir

BK2904162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a large number of people took out processions in three different localities in Srinagar today and raised anti-Pakistan slogans. The demonstrators also raised slogans against the outlawed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahidin which is reportedly being patronized by Pakistan.

Meanwhile, security forces have arrested six militants, including two Pakistan-trained terrorists, in different parts of the state since yesterday. One hard-core militant was killed in an encounter with security forces between Badshahi Bagh Bridge and Lashjan. In Jammu, police arrested a terrorist last night after an encounter near (Sambal Camp). Some arms and ammunition were also recovered from them.

### Indonesian Delegation Visits on Defense Issues

#### Talks Between Officials

BK3004074691 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] A high-level Indonesian defense delegation held detailed discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Defense in New Delhi today. The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual concern and the prospects for increased bilateral cooperation. The Indonesian delegation was headed by the secretary general Ministry of Defense, General I.B. Sudjanan, while the Indian side is led by the defense secretary, Mr. M.N. Vohra. Both the sides were of the view that more intensive collaboration in research and production areas will be of mutual benefit. The visiting delegation later called on the chief of naval staff, Admiral L. Ram Das. The delegation is scheduled to visit Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bombay to see selected defense research and production units.

### Defense Agreement Reached

BK3004075291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1712 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 (AFP)—India and Indonesia have agreed to cooperate in defence production and research, defence officials quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) here said Monday.

The agreement emerged during talks between Indian officials and a visiting high-level official delegation led by Indonesian Defence Secretary I.B. Sudjana, PTI said.

The two sides agreed to establish "intensive collaboration" in defence production and research, Indian defence officials were quoted as saying.

The talks, at which the Indian side was led by Defence Secretary N.N. Vohra, also covered "issues of mutual concern," the news agency said.

Mr. Vohra stressed the need for building up an atmosphere of trust and friendship in the region so that "defence expenditure fuelled by misunderstanding could be diverted towards socio-economic development."

PTI did not say if any particular issue or countries were discussed in this context. Indonesia is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

### Reportage on Venkataraman Visit to Philippines

WA2904181991

For reportage on the visit to the Philippines by President Ramaswami Venkataraman, including reports on his arrival and talks with President Corazon Aquino, please see the Philippines section of the 29 April East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### Iran

#### Velayati Visit Prepares for Hajj Aspirations

LD2604214891 Tehran in English to Europe  
1930 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Jeddah at the head of a high-ranking Iranian delegation on a 48-hour official visit at the invitation of his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal, and he was received by Saudi officials.

Since the resumption of political relations between the two countries, this is the first time Dr. Velayati is visiting Saudi Arabia. During the two-hour detailed talks, the two countries' foreign ministers discussed the most important international and regional issues. Owing to Iran's strategic importance in the Persian Gulf, the avenues for further cooperation between the member

states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran were studied.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, Iran has always sought to establish friendly relations with its neighbors on the basis of respect for mutual rights. However, unfortunately, as a result of the existing misunderstandings in the mind of some of the neighboring countries' leaders, as well as the existence of negative propaganda launched by news imperialism, there was no chance for expanding further any relations in the region.

Following current developments in the region and the vigilant and decisive stances adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, for many individuals, who had doubts about Iran's justice-seeking stances, this question was gradually made clear that Islamic Iran does not make a deal about its indisputable principles which are based on the life-giving injunctions of Islam.

The oil war in the Persian Gulf and the performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this connection once again proved that Islamic Iran is ready to overlook its vested interest in order for peace and security to be realized in the region, for it finds its national security realizable in the light of ensuring security for all the regional countries through mutual cooperation.

The visit to Saudi Arabia by Iran's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, will be an extremely suitable opportunity for the reannouncement of Iran's preparedness for every kind of cooperation aimed at maintaining peace and security for all the regional countries without any kind of interference by foreign forces. In the meantime, this visit can prepare a suitable groundwork for the realization of hajj aspirations now that hajj rituals are approaching, the hajj pilgrimage whose primary principles are against any kind of atheism, idolatry, and paganism.

On the whole, one can say that Dr. Velayati's trip to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with King Fahd can certainly leave a great impact on the two countries' relationship and on preparing a suitable groundwork for extensive mutual cooperation aimed at creating peace and security in the Persian Gulf. Now, one must see to what extent Saudi Arabia can show its good intentions for attaining the said objectives.

#### Yazdi Calls For War Crimes Trial for Saddam

LD2904191891 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT  
29 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi today called for the trial of Iraq's Saddam Husayn in a Nuremberg-style court for his war crimes.

Ayatollah Yazdi is the second leading Iranian official to call for Saddam's trial. Last week, Chief Justice Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i proposed the setting up of an international tribunal to try the Ba'th Party chief for his

crimes including the eight years of war which brought ruin and destruction to the Iranian and Iraqi people.

Several Western leaders have spoken of bringing Saddam to justice for his war crimes during and after the Persian Gulf crisis.

Following his defeat at the hands of the U.S.-led forces, Saddam has added more blood-stained folios to his sanguinary record against humanity, and this time by slaughtering over half a million Iraqi people and turning some 3 million others homeless.

Ayatollah Yazdi also rapped international bodies for their indifference towards the worsening plight of the Iraqi refugees, and termed the setting up of the so-called "safe havens" for the Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq "a suspicious plan."

"Such measures have political colour rather than humanitarian," he added.

He said Iraq's disintegration is not in the interest of the regional countries, and that Iran lays stress on the territorial integrity of both Iraq and Kuwait on the basis of U.N. Security Council's Resolution 678.

On the alleged human rights violation in Iran as claimed by some segments of the Western media, the judiciary chief said he was ready and willing to answer any such allegations if these segments of the media or any other circle can even prove a single case.

He said the campaign against drugs in Iran is carried out according to the letter and spirit of the law, and the punishments are legal. "We agree it is a successful law," he added.

#### **Commentary on Calls for Iraqi War Crimes Trial**

NC2704085091 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0447 GMT 27 Apr 91*

[Central News Unit's research group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. After the Iraqi regime attacked and occupied Kuwait, some voices were heard calling for a trial of the Iraqi president. The Ba'thist army's operations against defenseless Iraqis and their forced flight to neighboring countries have made these calls gain strength, so much so that at its recent session in Luxembourg, the EC officially called for convening a court to examine the Ba'thist government's actions. Various countries, including Germany, Italy, and France, have also announced individually that they are inclined toward such a step. For its part, the U.S. Administration has refrained from any explicit announcement, limiting itself to a statement that the topic is under discussion.

If an international consensus is achieved on convening such a court, it would not be the first of its kind. The idea of trying heads of government on charges of violating

peace agreements, breaching the rules governing warfare, and committing crimes against humanity first emerged during World War II. [passage omitted]

If such a court is convened in the case of Iraq, the defendants will be questioned and tried by lawyers and judges from the countries that participated in the international alliance against Iraq or perhaps from the United Nations, and it is the so-called justice of the victors that will be carried out. Any decision by such a court will have political and international repercussions far beyond narrow questions of law. Therefore, when considering whether such a court should be established, greater attention should be paid to political developments and the objectives of big powers than to the competence of the lawyers who may be involved.

Such a court will be set up only if the victorious countries are confident their own interests would not be harmed by a trial, and such an outcome is unlikely. If the Iraqi Government used chemical weapons, then it was the Western governments that gave them to it. It was the Westerners' silence that allowed the acts of pillage and plunder, the destruction of cities and villages, and the massacres to be committed. Moreover, if such a trial does take place, it should not be limited to the Iraqi regime's actions in Kuwait.

In any event, it appears that the establishment of such a court depends on future developments inside Iraq and the way the crisis is managed by the Security Council and the big countries. At the same time, statements possibly intended to pave the way for future action or to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime and achieve its further international isolation will continue.

#### **Paper Supports Majles Decision on Najafi**

LD2504214791 *Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 25 Apr 91*

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Thursday said in a review of the interpellation of Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi at the Majles Wednesday that the aye votes of the Majles deputies for Najafi was wise and befitting both Najafi and the present circumstances.

It warned against certain sporadic tendencies for impeaching this or that official beyond the dictates of the laws, saying in part:

"Certain criticisms against Najafi were technically irrelevant and were mainly prompted by political motives. The Majles must continue to operate as a respectful group, which means the deputies must observe the sanctity of the Majles more than the outsiders do. In fact some Majles deputies have not yet realized their own status or the status of the Majles. They must show more tolerance and adopt more fraternal attitude...

"The issue is not solely that of interpellating a cabinet minister. The same experience may be repeated with

another cabinet minister tomorrow. How solid was the evidence of those who impeached him. Some of the reports presented to Majles deputies seem to have been unprofessionally filed, as well as unsound, and beyond technical considerations. Once an issue is not investigated wisely it is likely that the result will be destructive. The defect was clearly obvious in the impeachment yesterday, which of course was compensated for by farsighted outlooks of a majority of Majles deputies..."

#### Political Roundtable Views Mideast Issues

LD2604111291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program  
Network in Persian 1617 GMT 25 Apr 91

["Political Roundtable" program with Mahmud Va'ez, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs; Dr. Saqhafi, "expert on strategic affairs;" Mr. 'Ameri, not further identified; and another unidentified participant; moderated by an unidentified announcer]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mr. Va'ez: Concerning the Iraqi refugees and the reasons for the establishment of safehavens for them in the north of that country, it was Turkey that put this proposal on the agenda for the first time. What was Ozal's intention when he proposed this formula? What are the intentions and aims of the British Government in supporting that proposal?

[Va'ez] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hello, dear viewers. The issue of the refugees is distressing. Unfortunately, it is not viewed as a humanitarian issue as it should. The world is considering it as a political deal or propaganda tool. The point that is more painful is this: Certain countries want to implement their long-term objectives in the region by using the plight of the refugees. Concerning your question regarding Mr. Ozal's proposal, the proposal he put forward was mainly this: The refugees should be able to return to their homes in one way or another. We also have the same position. He put forward this proposal in such a way—by pointing to the safehavens issue—that the opportunity was used by British Prime Minister John Major, who submitted a proposal to the UN Security Council. In those proposals, they considered special rights for themselves. It was not noticed by many countries of the world. This is because it may have resolved one problem in the short term but created a greater problem in the long term. Mr. Ozal realized that it may be a danger to the future of Turkey. Or perhaps, under pressure from America, he withdrew the proposal because it was not accepted by America.

Concerning the second part of your question, the aims that America and Britain are pursuing: There is no doubt that America wanted to be at the forefront of this humanitarian issue. This is why it confronted the British proposal in that way. It put forward the idea of safe stations and safe corridors instead of safehavens. On the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 668, America is bringing its forces in to establish them.

The aims that they have in mind are first, to correct their former image, and second, to promote their future aims in this region.

The people of the region, the Muslim people of the region, are not going to forget that America attacked and destroyed Iraq in that way. So many people were killed—of course there is no doubt that this is due to the mistakes and miscalculations of the Iraqi leadership—we have talked about this before. Anyway, the outcome of its actions was hated by the Iraqi people and the people of the region. Therefore, it is trying to correct its bad actions. This is why the people of Iraq, Shiites in the south and Kurds in the north, are in opposition. They ended the occupation of cities by the Iraqi Government and took over their administration themselves. At that time, the policy of the West was silence, silence interwoven with a green light so that Iraq could do whatever it liked. We saw that the outcome was the extreme suppression of the people of Iraq, be they Shiite or Kurd, and of all those in opposition. The outcome of this extreme suppression was that outlooks changed. The hatred of people turned from America and its allies for the destruction of Iraq toward Iraq itself. This had two uses: One, their image changed, and second, their goal, which is followed by all the countries of the region and in the West, the aim that Saddam is not a suitable leader of Iraq, is being promoted gradually.

But in relation to the safehaven, the other objective that can be pursued.... [changes thought] Of course, from what they ostensibly say about the plan, it appears to be a humanitarian one. So, of course, if the issue is 100 percent humanitarian, then there is no problem. Everyone definitely believes—as do we—that the people must return to their homeland. There is no place as comfortable for anyone as his own homeland. But there should be no bargaining on the slogan of humanitarianism. Therefore, we see that if the safe corridor and safe stations plan is not viewed seriously by the regional states and by the Iraqi people themselves, it can become a threat to Iraq's future and an interference in the internal affairs of Iraq. The objectives that are being pursued behind the scenes may be political ones so that they can have an influence over the Kurds, as an opposition group, and also over other groups.

[Announcer] Dr. Saqhafi, how do you see the objectives and intentions of Britain and America in supporting the Ozal plan?

[Saqhafi] In the name of God, the merciful, the beneficent. If you allow me, I will consider the issue from the point of view of its international dimensions, because the honorable Mr. Va'ez graciously pronounced the necessary points in this regard. If we want to look at the issue from its international dimension, the issue of refugees in the world has been a crucial global problem and still is. [passage omitted]

If we compare the Iraqi refugee issue with the issue of other refugees in the world, we can more or less come up

with the motives for creating the safe havens. I believe that the Iraqi refugee issue is different from other refugee issues on several counts. One is the number of the refugees. Within two weeks—soon to be three weeks—they became refugees in extremely harsh conditions. They crossed very difficult terrain.

The second thing is the various states being taken by surprise by the problem, because it occurred immediately after a long war of almost eight months duration. Therefore the initial reactions to this human tragedy were really very basic and the necessary sensitivity was not shown toward it.

In finding a solution to this problem, efforts were made in two fields. One was through international organizations and the other by the allied forces, especially America. The issue, as Va'ezzi graciously said, was first mooted by Turkey. Turkey has a crucial problem regarding its Kurdish minority and has always denied its existence, at least until one or two weeks ago. Therefore, it wanted to hold back the refugees with violence and not to add one more problem to its own. As a result, considering that a number of refugees had entered Turkish territory, it proposed the plan to create the safe havens. But in consultations about the issue at the United Nations, especially in the Security Council, at least two states did not show much enthusiasm for the plan. The Soviet Union and China did not show much agreement with it....

[Va'ezzi, interrupting] Pardon me, at this point the Americans also did not agree at first. They announced their agreement at the next stage.

[Saqhafi] The initial failure of the Americans to agree can be explained by the fact that they were worried lest the Kurdish guerrillas use the safe havens for their own activities. This concern continues to exist and they themselves voiced it as well. Incidentally, one of the conditions that the Americans stipulated for the safe havens is that the Kurdish guerrillas do not [word indistinct] the areas. Of course the reasons were clear. What happens now is for clear reasons. Turkey's concerns—it is considered one of America's allies in NATO and has been involved in the Persian Gulf crisis—and the concerns it expressed resulted in the initial refusal of the plan. But as he [Va'ezzi] graciously pointed out, Britain strongly supported the plan. The British premier himself phoned the U.S. President and eventually they convinced the Americans with guarantees, so that, in reality, the Americans hold the initiative. This is because the initial plan was based on the United Nations administering it. But for various reasons, the United Nations did not have the strength; and unfortunately one must say that during the Persian Gulf war, the United Nations lost many of the strengths it possessed before. As a result, the Americans succeeded in taking the initiative and exploited the, so to speak, favorable atmosphere which developed for them after the war. In reality one could say that there was a general call for the Americans to intervene somehow and stem the flight of the refugees.

And eventually, as we see, the safehavens are to be set up and put under the control of military forces.

[Announcer] Excuse me, Mr. Va'ezzi, now comes the question of why they are setting up safehavens only in the north of Iraq? Is that not a kind of license for killings in the south considering that the American forces were stationed in the south and now they are gradually withdrawing their forces?

[Va'ezzi] Of course, we cannot say that because they are setting up safehavens in the north this is tantamount to permitting killings in the south. But we can say that this issue shows a kind of disregard for the south. The reason they give is that the number of refugees in the north cannot be compared with those in the south. The number of refugees in the north is around 1.5 million in Iran and Turkey and a considerable number inside Iraq. The same is not true in the south, but attention should be paid to one issue. When people are made homeless, they need help in any case and they need security and, therefore, this is not acceptable under any circumstances.

[Announcer] Moreover, the road to the south is closed.

[Va'ezzi] Yes. It is not acceptable that refugees enjoy security in one region of the country and do not enjoy the same in another region which, in any case, I think is a kind of discrimination. The international community should pay attention to this issue. I think the refugees from the south have been oppressed.

[Announcer] All right. Continuing our discussions, we are witnessing that at the height of the clashes between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi regime, the leaders of the Iraqi Kurds held an unexpected meeting with Iraqi officials. For what reasons did that meeting take place Mr. 'Ameri?

['Ameri] The meeting with some Kurdish leaders, which has been condemned by other Kurdish groups, can be justified by the fact that those same Kurdish leaders, who are now involved in the meeting, and initiated the contact are those who first took up arms. They initially thought that perhaps by following the green light which the United States showed they could rise up and topple the Iraqi regime and establish autonomy in Kurdistan. But later on, as we saw, events evolved in a different way. Perhaps one of the reasons for the West and the U.S. policy of noninterference was because they showed that they wanted independence. That, of course, is not compatible with current regional and international conditions. After they realized their mistakes and so many refugees were created they thought of taking best advantage of the current situation and of securing the agreements reached in 1970 by obtaining international recognition for those agreements which they were not successful in doing in the past because the member countries of the Security Council did not agree with that issue, in particular China and the Soviet Union. Those countries would face similar problems if they expressed agreement on this issue. Therefore, those contacts were held with the intention of taking advantage of the current

situation—as they did not manage to achieve their initial goals—before the refugees return to Iraq and before the issue loses its crisis status from an international point of view.

[Unidentified speaker] I would like to look at the issues from a different angle but on the same lines. An opportunity has now arisen for Saddam and for the ruling clique which wants to remain in power. They are prepared to sacrifice everything to achieve this. The Kurdish groups have realized this as have the Western forces. On the other hand, both the Western forces and the opposition groups, which are representatives of the Iraqi people, are seeking to remove Saddam and the ruling clique. Therefore, when safe havens are set up and such open interference is conducted in the internal affairs of a country, this can have another meaning—that that country's ruling clique lacks the necessary power to control the country. The country—the south of which is territory under the control of the United Nations forces. [sentence incomplete as heard] In the northern section there is something called the safe havens. That means a country which lacks a central power to control its affairs. This shows the weakness of the Ba'th Party and of the ruling clique in Iraq.

This is one view. The other view that exists concerns the different groups, especially those negotiating with Saddam Husayn now. This is not their first time. In the past, they negotiated, they achieved autonomy, it was all signed. After Saddam became powerful he canceled all those agreements. He carried on with his dictatorial way. They have not forgotten this, not even a generation has passed since that time. On the other hand, we see a regime that says to its neighbor: I will annul the 1975 Algiers Agreement because I was weak at the time. Now I am strong and I will annul it. It is natural that a repetition of the same act will mean nothing to the internal groups. They can understand this. But why are they negotiating? When a regime becomes weak, it starts to make concessions. When it makes concessions to one group, it has to make the same concessions to other opposition groups. That is the time when the reins of power, the administration of the country, are gradually lost. I think that as time goes by and these agreements are reached they show the weakness of the Iraqi Government which may lead to its downfall. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Saqhafi, do America and Europe have common views on the political future of Iraq?

[Saqhafi] Concerning the political future of Iraq, one must say that the issue of Saddam and the Ba'th Party is on the agenda. They do have the same view on at least one point. It concerns putting a government in power in Iraq that supports the West. It is not that important whether or not its title is the Ba'th Party. As an example, they were antagonistic toward the Syrian Ba'th Party for a long time, but they became allies very easily and took action against Iraq. Therefore, the inclinations of the future government are important. It does not have to

support the West, but it must not be antagonistic toward the West either. This will be one of their preconditions.

I think another of America's objectives in the Persian Gulf crisis was the Israeli issue. They will obviously want to put a government in power that will not confront Israel. Therefore, I think this will be another precondition.

Now to the issues that separate them: economic interests and oil. Where will the future government of Iraq go? Toward which trend will it lean, America or Europe, concerning both the export of oil and reconstruction projects? One can imagine a certain amount of competition during that stage. During the current stage, as we can see, over safe havens in northern Iraq, there is coordination among them. America is trying to give each one of them a role; one to Britain and one to... even small European countries like Norway and Denmark have been invited to dispatch a number of soldiers as a gesture. Therefore, America is trying to maintain this unity. As I said, however, once the problem is solved there may be differences in the economic field.

[Announcer] Mr. Saqhafi, the European proposal is, on the whole, extreme. It calls for the trial of Saddam. Meanwhile, contrary to the Europeans, the Americans are more in favor of Saddam's exile. They have put forward a more conservative proposal.

[Saqhafi] I think this is on the surface. In reality, there is no difference between them. The first person who called Saddam Husayn Hitler was George Bush. Therefore, one cannot let a person like Hitler go free. They are trying to pressure Saddam so that he falls from power. Of course, I am sure they will pursue him if he is in exile.

[Announcer] Mr. Va'ez, your comments on this matter please.

[Va'ez] With regard to the situation after this crisis, the picture that we can foresee for Iraq, I can say that I don't see any confrontation between America and Europe. It is more like a competition. A competition that is natural among allies. During the Persian Gulf crisis, on the surface, everyone's aim was the liberation of Kuwait. Each of them was following specific aims. It is the same concerning the future of Iraq. Specifically, with regard to Saddam's fall, both of them have the same view. When we see that one says exile and the other says trial, when we examine this, both of them are saying: the elimination of Saddam. They have a basic aim common to both of them and that is that Saddam must not be here. One side says it in one way, the other in another. The important point on the international scene is this: A movement has started, they are preparing world public opinion for the elimination of Saddam. We talked about the public opinion of the people of Iraq and of the region in the first part of our discussion. This discussion concerns world public opinion.

We see a disparity and opposition between the wishes of the people and the wishes of the West. This is what

exists. If the West really believes in what it announces, democracy and the will of the people, then there was no better opportunity for Iraq than a month ago when all the people, the majority of the people of Iraq, spoke with one voice. They were talking of their future, they were saying Saddam must go, the Ba'th Party must go, and a government based on the will of the people must take over. Now is the time for those who believe in democracy and the will of the people. Interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq is not the issue, helping them financially or giving them arms and so forth. It would have been right to support them morally. At least, they could have reflected their wishes, but they did not. In fact, they did the opposite. They said: We do not mind if you fly your helicopters. This was the green light. It doesn't matter that a people are demanding freedom and democracy, you can use helicopters to massacre them. One of the reasons for the refugee's escape was the way the world responded to the Iraqi voice of opposition.

So on one side we have the wishes of the people and on the other we have the wishes of the West. The West is moving forward at a time when, apparently, the Shiites are suppressed, after their massacre by the Iraqi Army. Also, the Kurdish combatants, Kurdish groups have been suppressed in a different way. They have had a number of meetings with the heads of groups in Europe, America, and Saudi Arabia. They are trying to attract them, to make their demands milder, weaken the central government and, as a result, prepare the ground for a major development. Naturally, as time goes by, it may appear to be to the benefit of Saddam, but it is detrimental to the Ba'th Party and to the ruling clique. It is also detrimental to the opposition since they don't have specific and decisive proposals as they did a month ago.

They want to prepare the ground so that within the army, one particular person or a particular group can take over power. The difficulty is that the Ba'th Party is not separate from Saddam, and Saddam is not separate from the Ba'th Party. The calamity that has befallen the Iraqi people during the past 12 years is due to the policies of the Ba'th Party and of its leaders. It is difficult to separate the two. The Ba'th Party must also be eliminated if things take their natural course. This is when the people should decide. I believe it will be in two stages. The first stage: a coup d'etat by the army. This will be the transient stage. They will be forced to hold free elections. All these contacts are for the future elections. They are trying to make contacts so that their supporters can have a share in the parliament and the ruling circles after these future elections.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mr. Va'ez.

#### \*Shipping Line to Bahrain Operational

91AS0809E London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The first passenger ship line between Iran and Bahrain began operation last Wednesday. With the operation of this ship line between Bandar-e Bushehr and

Bandar-e Manama (capital of Bahrain), on every trip 150 passengers and 500 tons of cargo will be transported.

This shipping line is the third between Iranian ports and the ports of the countries in the southern region of the Persian Gulf. The shipping line between Iran and Qatar has also begun operation recently.

#### Reportage on President's Visit to Turkey

WA2904202591

For reportage on the visit by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Turkey, including reports on his talks with President Turgut Ozal, please see the Turkey section of the 29 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

#### Pakistan

##### Japanese Hostages Freed by Kidnappers in Sindh

BK3004093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 30 (AFP)—Pakistani kidnappers Tuesday released two Japanese students after holding them hostage for six weeks in the dense forests of Sindh Province, official sources here said.

The bandits freed Tokyo's Waseda University students Takayu Sato, 19, and Takayasu Hattori, 20, around dawn. Shortly afterwards, the two were reported to be en route to Karachi from the Sukkur region where they had been held.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted a police official as saying "no ransom was paid," while other officials declined to comment on the possibility of a reported deal through a third party.

The kidnappers had been demanding a ransom of 500,000 dollars and the release of several jailed comrades, according to local newspaper reports.

The Sindh Government had recently detained about 600 people, including very close relatives of the bandits, to put pressure on the kidnappers as efforts for a negotiated settlement stalled.

The kidnapping was the first here of Japanese nationals. It embarrassed the Pakistani Government which has close trade and industrial ties with Japan.

Sources here said the government was keen to obtain their release before the scheduled May 5 visit of Pakistan's foreign secretary to Tokyo.

The kidnappers had earlier threatened to kill their hostages if the government launched commando operations.

The bandits kidnapped the two, along with a third student and their Pakistani guide, while they were

canoeing down the River Indus on March 16. They immediately released Yoshihiro Tachikawa, 20, to negotiate the ransom.

Later on, the kidnappers freed the Pakistani guide with a message for the Japanese mission in Islamabad seeking direct negotiations with the embassy.

A gang led by Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, alias Commando, which is active in northern Sindh, was said to be responsible.

Officials in Sindh said the Japanese youths had not informed the government and entered the heavily forested region on their own. The area is a well-known haunt of bandits and is generally shunned by foreigners.

### Court Suspends Conviction of Former Minister

BK2704164791 Islamabad Domestic Service in English  
1600 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] In Peshawar today, a bench of the Supreme Court suspended operation of the conviction order passed by a special court in the case of a former minister, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, under Article 3 of PPO [Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification Order] No. 16 of 1977. The special court comprising Mr. Justice Wali Mohammad Khan had last Wednesday [24 April] fined Syed Iftikhar Gilani 20 lakh rupees besides disqualifying him for seven years from being elected or chosen as a member of parliament or of the provincial assembly. The bench of the Supreme Court comprising Mr. Justice Shafiur Rahman and Mr. Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhry after hearing the appeal for suspension of the order of the special court directed the appellant to arrange two sureties of 5 lakh rupees each to the satisfaction of the registrar of Peshawar High Court. Mr. Etejaz Ahsan appeared on behalf of the appellant, while the Federation of Pakistan was represented by the deputy attorney general, Mian Ajmal.

In pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission in Islamabad says the notification of the commission of last Thursday regarding program and appointment of election personnel for by-election to the National Assembly for constituency No. NA-9 Kohat is rescinded.

### Kashmiri Council Seeks UN Help for Struggle

BK2704135091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English  
1300 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council of Advisers which met in Muzaffarabad today appealed to the United Nations and the world community to help Kashmiris in their just struggle for achieving their right of self-determination. The council urged the International Human Rights Organization to take note of gross violations of human rights at the hands of Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathor, who chaired the meeting, condemned

the Indian forces' brutalities on Kashmiri people for raising their voice in favor of their right to self-determination.

### Article Examines Anti-Mujahidin Elements

BK2704133691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English  
27 Apr 91 pp 6,8

[Article by Brigadier S.A.I. Tirmizi, retired: "The Afghan Fifth Column"]

[Text] Over the past twelve years, the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] has been resounding with activities centering around Afghanistan, the Mujahidin, the refugees and weapons. Peshawar and a number of other towns and villages of NWFP have not only been safe havens and accommodating hosts to millions of Afghan refugees and freedom fighters, but have also served as important centres around which the whole infrastructure has been built to fight the Soviet invasion.

The philosophical underpinning of the Afghan struggle has basically been a fight between two opposing ideologies. It has been a forceful reaction and a demonstration of total rejection of forcible occupation of a small country by a bigger, stronger and expansionist neighbour, intending to replace the established Islamic system with Communism.

Whilst life and death struggle goes on unabated the people of Afghanistan continue to suffer untold miseries and hardships. Behind the deafening sounds and battle-lure, runs an intricate and highly suspicious stream of cover activities controlled by foreign vested-interests. International intelligence operatives, merchants of death, subversionists, black-mailers and smugglers have woven dangerous webs in and around this holy war. Of late these activities have assumed alarming proportions, and unless correctly identified and urgently checked with a strong and sure surgical operation, security and well-being of Pakistan, in particular, and of the region, in general would be at stake.

The US, whose writ and myth of super-provess was broken and badly mauled by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, became apprehensive of Soviet designs, but saw as a bigger and more dangerous threat, the defiant Islamic forces that challenged the Soviet might. US think-tanks and policy makers correctly appreciated that Marxism, an unnatural and an alien code of life, would, sooner or later, crumble as a system, but Islam would emerge a real force to reckon with. They had to quickly contrive measures to sabotage and check the Islamic Afghan Movement lest the Resistance develops into a full-fledged Islamic military force in which the combined power of Pakistan-Iran-Afghanistan may pose new problems and challenges for them.

So, the American CIA and Israeli MOSSAD, in the garb of "friendship" and steering the sails with military and economic aid, joined the battle with the malicious design

of controlling and directing the struggle to a predetermined destination. The US Administration wanted to see Afghanistan a secular State, totally dependent upon them and subservient to their interests.

However, Pakistani leadership of the eighties and the Afghan Mujahidin leadership refused to swallow the US bait. They accepted the military and economic aid with grace, but minus the US "wisdom." Having failed to secure the advantage of direct intervention, US adopted the strategy of indirect approach and involved Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and some other Muslim countries in the crisis. In the name of Islam and the holy war, these countries came forward to assist the Afghan struggle, but, advertently or inadvertently, also fell prey to the ugly US machinations. They could not and probably have still not, seen, through the US game.

With Arab financial help, the US cleverly manipulated to infiltrate some foreigners into the Afghan struggle. Today there are nearly five thousand of them in the NWFP. Whereas these men have been given to understand that their cause is noble and their struggle genuine, the fact remains that the majority belong to fundamentalist revolutionary groups neither wanted nor tolerated in their own countries. Most of these men are hand-picked and selected to perform specific tasks.

They are politically supported and protected by some hardliners, receive liberal remunerations from foreign intelligence agencies, and their activities are directed and controlled by invisible hands functioning through "tongs." Under specific directions, these groups have opened their own independent offices, logistics centres, weapon depots and training camps which are spread all over the area on both sides of the Pak-Afghan border.

First, these men kept a very close watch on all activities of Afghan Mujahidin and Pakistan agencies associated with the freedom fight, and send reports to their masters through the cut-outs; espionage.

Second, one of their major tasks is to train terrorists who are launched back into countries like Sudan, Burma, China, Philippines, etc. Acts of imparting training and clandestine infiltration and exfiltration of hostile elements is bound to be detected and traced back to Pakistan with its serious ramifications.

Most of these men come from poor and deprived families. With large sums of US dollars that these men receive here, they have had a much better life, some even own bungalows in Peshawar and maintain luxurious life-style with Afghans as their paid body-guards and errand boys. If they were to return home, they would revert to a far lower level of living. It is, therefore, in their interest and in the interest of their mentors that Afghan situation remains unresolved. They continue to play in the hands of foreign exploiters, maintain pressure, exploit differences, fight mock battles, send exaggerated reports so that the dollars keep pouring in from multiple sources. Let no one mistake those men with those genuine Afghan

Mujahidin who have fought and captured Khowst much to the surprise and disgust of the US.

These foreign "Mujahidin", have, under instructions, also resorted to in-fighting sabotage, smuggling, armed clashes, raids upon each other's camps, sabotage, rifts and jealousies, and have created misunderstandings. The fallout has impeded the smooth working of the Mujahidin war machinery and also posed serious law and order situation in Pakistan.

It is also interesting to note that some of these foreign "Mujahidin" are obsessed with incorrect interpretation of ethics, religious code and Islamic injunctions. Their belief is that the property and life of a bad Muslim or of a non-practicing Muslim or for that matter of non-Muslim are permissible to be taken by force. The danger is that with dwindling US aid and drying Saudi and Kuwait petro-dollars, these men might resort to looting and plundering in the name of Islam.

The question is where was the necessity of these men to come and fight the war for Afghans when every Afghan is a born soldier? If they were so overwhelmed with the spirit of waging holy wars, there are better and more deserving theaters like Kashmir, Lebanon and Palestine. Are these self-proclaimed Mujahidin deaf to the cries of innocent Kashmir children? Do the shrieks of their Kashmir Muslim sisters not reach their ears when they are gang-raped by the "kafirs"? Where is their conscience and spirit of "jihad," as ordained by Allah? Or is "jihad" waged only with petro-dollars and under US patronage and MOSSAD directions?

The print media is yet another field being extensively employed for subversion, exploitation and propaganda. Various groups publish over one hundred and fifty unlicensed daily, weekly and monthly magazines. Some publications houses are equipped with most modern and computerised press machines. A study of these magazines would reveal that they contain little motivational, religious or Afghan "Jihad" material. Instead, these are instruments for fanning hatred, preaching intolerance and driving a wedge among various groups. Concerted efforts are being made to split Pakistanis into Shiite and Sunni factions, digging deep sectarian fissures and to permanently destroy national unity and harmony.

On a number of occasions, sincere and true efforts have been made to coordinate and bring together Afghan Mujahiden groups located in Pakistan with those operating from Iran. Efforts have also been made to unite Sunni-Shiite Mujahidin groups and coordinate their activities at all levels for achieving better results. Every step in this direction has met with stiff resistance from vested interests, infiltrators, agents of influence and from those who have already been influenced and subverted. Some of these magazines have published more anti-Iran propaganda than anti-Soviet material.

No one in Pakistan seems concerned or responsible to enforce control over these organs, or to see that Pakistan's law of the land is not violated, and the hospitality

is not abused. Would someone, whose duty it is to control the publication of unauthorised periodicals, and those government functionaries who must screen the published material, analyse what damage has already been done and what evil seeds have been sown detrimental to the security of Pakistan?

Our Intelligence and security agencies, immigration and the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] must also answer as to how these foreigners are here and continue to stay

without or with forged documents. One insider mentioned that members of officials security and law enforcing agencies are being "kept happy" on regular basis so they do not bother anyone.

Names are being mentioned of persons, organizations and publications with big question marks against them. The bloodtrail leads right upto Islamabad, but would await further expose. The delicate task is better left to those professionals whose duty it is to track down enemy agents, saboteurs, subversionists and illegal residents.